BAREFOOT GEN

Life After the Bomb

A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima Part 3

KEIJI NAKAZAWA

IMAGINE YOURSELF A LITTLE BOY.....

by Barbata Reynolds
Wilmington Peace
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If you read Volume I of **Barefoot Gen,** you already know that this is not an ordinary comic book. In the first place, it is true. Everything that Keiji Nakazawa describes really happened — to him or to people like you and like me. And it happened to thousands and thousands of them, all of whom were plunged in a single instant from a known and predictable world into a flaming hell.

In the second place, this comic book was not written as entertainment but out of the author's desperate need to communicate to others what had happened, what he had experienced, so that those of us who have never known war might understand — and learn.

It was not written originally for Americans, although we, of all people, most need to know about the atomic bomb and its effects. It was written for Japanese young people because Nakazawa was distressed to find that twenty years after the war most students knew nothing about the atomic bombs and that many teachers were not sure how to teach their students about such subjects since they themselves had no experience of war.

Nakazawa did not begin the task of writing **Barefoot Gen** for his own pleasure. Every memory was painful and he wanted only to forget. But these memories would not remain buried. They contained a lesson that had to be passed on to succeeding generations, a lesson that must be learned and taken to heart if mankind is not to repeat the tragedy. Unless we can learn from history, human beings are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past and Keiji Nakazawa determined that the testimonies of those who had survived the A-bomb must not be lost. I am grateful that he has continued to write and to publish the story of **Gen** and I am grateful to the people, Japanese, Americans, and others, who have devoted many months and even years to preparing this translation so that you, English-speaking readers, might also hear Nakazawa's urgent plea for NO MORE WAR.

Nakazawa is not alone in his decision to communicate his experiences. Almost from the beginning, while they were still struggling to stay alive, there were those who tried to convey the reality of the atomic bombing. At first, they were forbidden by the U.S. Occupation to write or to publish anything but still they persisted. Later, after the peace treaty had been signed, they began to publish but by that time very few people would listen. Japanese were busy rebuilding their disrupted lives and didn't want to be reminded of the war. No one seemed able to understand that, for the **hibakusha** (survivors of atomic war), there was no end to their suffering.

Americans, in particular, did not want to hear about "Hiroshima". Photographs, documentary films, poetry, and art — as well as first person accounts when they did become available in translation — served only to inspire fear or awaken defensive guilt. Parents who were alive at the time of the bomb did not want to discuss it with their children. If the subject came up, they hastened to justify the dropping of the atomic bombs by saying, "What about Pearl Harbor? Don't forget who started it!" or "It saved half a million lives."

I have good reason to know about the deep resistance of Americans to the appeals of Hiroshima for I myself unconsciously closed my mind and refused to understand. Like most Americans who were alive in 1945 when the first atomic bombs were dropped, I was not greatly disturbed when I heard about them. War dulls people's sensitivities and we had come to accept mass bombings of civilian populations as a necessary part of the war effort. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — cities I had never heard of — seemed justifiable, especially since they brought an end to the war. Few of us understood what this new type of bomb really was. We were told that Hiroshima, a city of some 68,000 people, had been totally destroyed, that it had become an "atomic desert" where nothing would grow for 75 years. But we were also told that this bomb — and the second one, dropped on Nagasaki — had not only ended the present war but had made all future wars unthinkable. Moreover, the peacetime uses of atomic energy were going to open up tremendous benefits for all mankind — or so we were told. I, along with most Americans, believed it because we wanted to believe.

I gave no thought to Hiroshima or Nagasaki. Two cities had been alive and now they were dead. The thought that any might

have survived, that thousands of men, women, and children — desperately injured and without medicine, food, or even shelter — were struggling to live, to find their loved ones, in a world that had been turned in a single moment into hell on earth, did not occur to me. It was not until six years later, when I went to Hiroshima with my husband and children, that I began to learn something about those who had survived. Even then, I did not really try to understand. I was embarrassed to ask questions directly of the Japanese — and there was no **Barefoot Gen** to help me. It took many years of personal contact with **hibakusha** and their problems before the significance of their persistent appeal broke through my defenses. Theirs is not a message of hatred or blame, such as most Americans expect. Instead, it is one of deep concern which seeks only to save all humanity from their fate.

"Let us be the only ones," they say. "In war, we have all been aggressors and we have all been victims. We pray that the lesson of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will reverse the arms race and put an end to war itself."

It is this lesson that **Barefoot Gen** presents with moving simplicity. As you read it, you who have never experienced war, try to put yourself in Gen's place. Imagine yourself a little boy, suddenly faced as he was with the sudden and terrifying loss of your entire world — your family blown apart, your home destroyed, neighbors and friendly merchants and even familiar streets and neighborhoods vanished. Who, we may ask ourselves, was to blame? Gen himself had nothing to do with the war. He had only trusted and obeyed his parents who, in their turn, had trusted and obeyed those in authority over them — block leaders, politicians, militarists, and, finally, the emperor himself who was worshipped as a god.

As you read this book, I urge you to think about what Gen's story says to **us.** What gods do **we** worship? What authority do **we** obey? Have we perhaps created a nuclear god whom we trust and to whom we pay tribute, a god whom we dare not criticise lest we be accused of blasphemy? Or are we worshipping a god of materialism that whispers to us that war is good for the economy and unemployment more to be feared than the possibility that our nuclear arsenal may be used? Do we really believe that nuclear weapons can make us secure? Are we willing to be responsible for preparing to create hundreds of thousands — perhaps millions — like Gen?

Hibakusha, remembering how the sudden and total devastation of the atomic bomb robbed them of all power to respond as human beings to those around them, tell us that the most fearful thing about nuclear weapons is that they will "destroy our humanity". I believe that we, Americans, need to consider whether the shock of hearing about the atomic bomb and its incomprehensible effects, may not have robbed us also of our humanity, resulting in a total inability to respond as human beings. How else can we explain the fact that even now, 34 years after the bombings, we are still refusing to inform ourselves about this most deadly of weapons, still refusing to express grief or regret, still justifying the inhumane use of not one, but two, such terrible bombs. Above all, how else can we explain the fact that we are continuing to develop and pay for the stockpiling of more and more such weapons and ignoring the suffering of those in our own country, as well as in Japan, who have been victims of radiation from these bombs?

Whoever you are, as you read **Barefoot Gen,** I hope you will ask yourself what you can do to join with Keiji Nakazawa and all the other **hibakusha** who are teaching the rest of us what it is to be truly human, truly caring. If you are a student faced with those who seek to recruit you for the armed forces, you may wish to share **Gen** with some of your friends and talk with them about the subtle infiltration of militarism into education. If you are a teacher, you will find **Gen** helpful in presenting the realities of war to those in your classes in order to counteract the one-sided history texts which tend to glorify war. And if you are a parent, I hope you will share **Gen** with your children and help them to understand that each one of us can be part of that spiritual chain reaction which alone can say "NO!" to the physical chain reaction which produced the atomic bomb.

Just because human beings have always accepted war as a "necessary evil" does not mean that we must continue to do so once we realize that it will destroy us, both body and soul, if we continue to worship at its shrine. Mankind did not reach the stars by digging tunnels underground and mankind will not eliminate war until we believe in the possibility of peace and demand that our governments join together to find how it can be achieved.

TO BECOME LIKE GEN

by Noboru Nishio
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When I traveled abroad, one thing that struck me was how little the world knows about Japan. Other than the fact that the Japanese were the first people to become victims of the atomic bomb, and the fact that many people died, not much is known about the realities of nuclear bombs among the people of the world.

In 1978 we took a photograph exhibit titled "Atomic Bomb Pictures" to over ten places all over France. Many of the people in local action groups showed a real interest in this exhibit, and many said they had never realized that this experience was so tragic. They were also surprised to hear that many who survived the bombing have since died of radiation disease and cancer, and that even today, 30 years later, there are 350 thousand victims of the atomic bomb still suffering, with no atomic bomb victim protection law yet enacted.

In **Barefoot Gen** the author, who himself experienced the atomic bomb, has vividly portrayed the tragedy through his pictures. Through the flow of these pictures he has also been able to bring to life some of the emotions of those who lived through it. I have read and reread this comic book many times and each time I am unable to hold back my tears.

The translation of **Barefoot Gen** into English will enable millions of people in English-speaking countries to learn of the Japanese people's experience with the atomic bomb. By using the form of cartoons, which are a means of communication beyond words, it will enable not only those who can read but also children and non-readers to learn about this tragedy. It can be conveyed to the four billion people living today and to their children and grandchildren.

This is an epoch-making project, not only in format but in content. The main themes of **Gen** are the war and the atomic bomb,

but when one looks at it in detail it also confronts many issues that accompany this experience. It describes and condemns, for example, discrimination against atomic bomb victims, the handicapped, orphans, Koreans, women and the poor. It also exposes the reality of those who were starving and homeless and those who on the other hand had more than enough and were wasting what they had. Today this type of waste can be seen in the overheating of buildings, in the quickly discarded toys and clothes of our children, in fields where vegetables rot when prices fall.

Gen also describes the history of the common people whose lives have been constantly trampled on. How was life for ordinary people under the militarist state which carried out this war? Through Gen we can tread on some of this same ground and experience their anger and sorrow.

Today we can hear kindergarten children blithely yelling "I'll kill you" or "You die"; we find life-endangering chemicals being used in our foods and radioactive wastes being spewed into our environment. Industrial plants which have been forbidden to operate in Japan are constructed in Southeast Asia, and nuclear power plants more dangerous than Three Mile Island's are being built one after the other in this overcrowded country. How have we come to this point? These acts, which will deny life and joy to us and our descendants for decades to come, can only be seen as signs of madness.

I feel that this discrimination, wastefulness and belittlement of life in our present society are clear indications of what "war" is. Today when we look around us we can see these signs everywhere. Atomic bombs and nuclear power plants are good examples of this. Are we not in the midst of a war today?

The past ten years of Japan's rapid economic growth has to a large extent been thanks to the demand created by the Vietnam War for weapon parts and toxic chemicals. When I recall these facts and realize that Japan was actually a participant in this war, it saddens me to know that even though those of us in the Vietnam Peace Movement cried out against it, our actions cannot be a pardon for the participation of Japan in the war. Today these same industrial and political structures remain unchanged: we are still in this condition of war.

One thing we can do today is to introduce Gen to the people of

the world. We ourselves must become like Gen, and put an end to the proliferation of atomic bombs and nuclear power plants. **Barefoot Gen** can help provide us with energy for this task.

ABOUT PROJECT GEN

Project Gen was formed in November 1976 by some Japanese participants in the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice which crossed the United States that year. On the way they met many Americans who wanted to know more about the experiences of victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombs, and a Japanese comic book called **Hadashi no Gen (Barefoot Gen)** proved a uniquely effective tool for telling the story. On their return to Japan they talked to the author, Keiji Nakazawa, and got his permission to begin translating **Gen** into other languages. The initial goal was an English translation of the first four volumes, 1100 pages in all, which had originally been serialized in a weekly children's comic magazine.

The first year of effort by an all-volunteer staff yielded two 32-page digests of the entire series. Finally, in May 1978, Volume One of **Barefoot Gen** was published in Tokyo after over a year of translating, lettering, layout, fundraising, and the time-consuming task of reversing the cartoon sequence so that it could be read by Western readers. 5000 copies were printed and distributed around the world, mostly through individual friends and groups involved in the peace and environmental movements. Work began on Volume Two in the fall of 1978 and the final manuscript was ready for publication in May 1979.

We would like to thank **Dadakai,** a group of Americans engaged in translating Japanese comics into English, for doing the draft translation of Volume Two. Special thanks are also due the many people around the globe who helped distribute Volume One and gave us their support and advice. With the publication of this second volume, Project Gen would like to enlist the aid of people in non-English speaking countries in translating **Barefoot Gen** into other languages. If time and funding permit, we would also like to continue our own work of translating a third volume of **Gen** into English. We need any assistance you can give us in these endeavors or in distributing Volume Two. We feel it is more urgent than ever that the facts about nuclear war — as seen through the eyes of the first victims — be conveyed around the world, and we think that

Barefoot Gen can serve in this effort. If you agree and would like to help, please contact Project Gen at the addresses below.

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A WORD FROM THE TRANSLATORS

In Volume One of **Barefoot Gen**, author Keiji Nakazawa begins his semi-autobiographical story by introducing the Nakaoka family in wartime Hiroshima. In addition to enduring almost constant air raids and lack of food in a nation on its knees, the family is forced to suffer ostracism and persecution because of Mr. Nakaoka's opposition to the war — a war few people then dared or thought to to question. Life is not easy for a family of seven in Japan in 1945: the eldest son, Koji, reports for duty at the Youth Training Corps of the Imperial Navy's Air Corps; Akira is evacuated to the countryside; and Eiko, Gen and Shinji remain in the city with their father and pregnant mother. Gen, in the second grade of primary school, is the hero of the story and it is his indomitable spirit in the face of constant hunger and injustice that helps sustain the family.

Through thick and thin the Nakaokas survive as Japan's war situation deteriorates — until 8:15 a.m., August 6, 1945. At that instant the heavens shook to the sound of mankind's ultimate insanity — the explosion of the atomic bomb — and the result was a devastation unparalleled in the annals of warfare. The Nakaokas are spared instant annihilation, but by a cruel twist of fate Mr. Nakaoka, Eiko, and Shinji perish in flames, trapped in the rubble of their home, while Mrs. Nakaoka and Gen watch helplessly. That same day, in the midst of a living hell, Gen's mother gives birth to a baby girl.

Volume Two is the story of young Gen, his mother and her baby, and their struggle to survive in the wake of the atomic blast — in a nightmare of total destruction, starvation, radiation sickness, and social breakdown. It is a situation guaranteed to bring out the ugliest aspects of society and man, and yet also one in which love, compassion, and perseverance shine through like the sun. Throughout everything, little Gen never gives up, and he serves as an inspiration to all of us.

Barefoot Gen (Hadashi no Gen) is a classic among Japanese comic books, and it has profoundly moved its readers with its uplifting but starkly realistic themes. It was originally serialized in **Shukan Shonen Jampu,** the largest weekly comic in Japan with a circulation

today of almost two million (in fact, one of the largest selling weekly magazines in the world) and has since been compiled into more than one edition of four volumes.

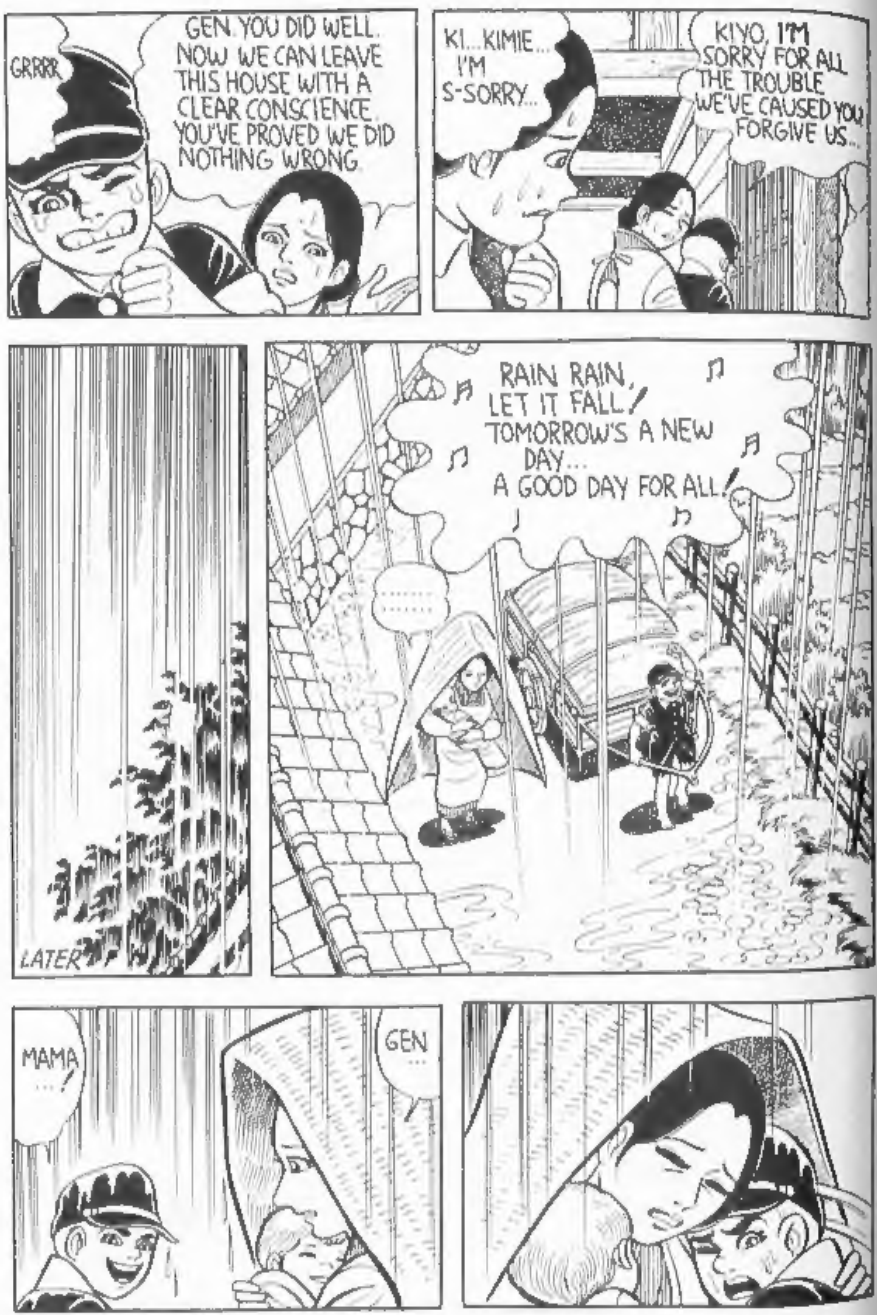
Western readers are likely to be astounded by both the length and content of a "comic" book like **Barefoot Gen.** To further the reader's comprehension of the story it should be noted that "comics" in Japan have become a far more integral part of the overall culture than is true in any other nation. In Japan, **everyone** reads comics, from elementary schoolchildren to company presidents; the average comic "book" is around 300 pages long as opposed to 20 in the United States, and is read usually in about 30 minutes. **Barefoot Gen,** therefore, is not the property of an isolated subculture.

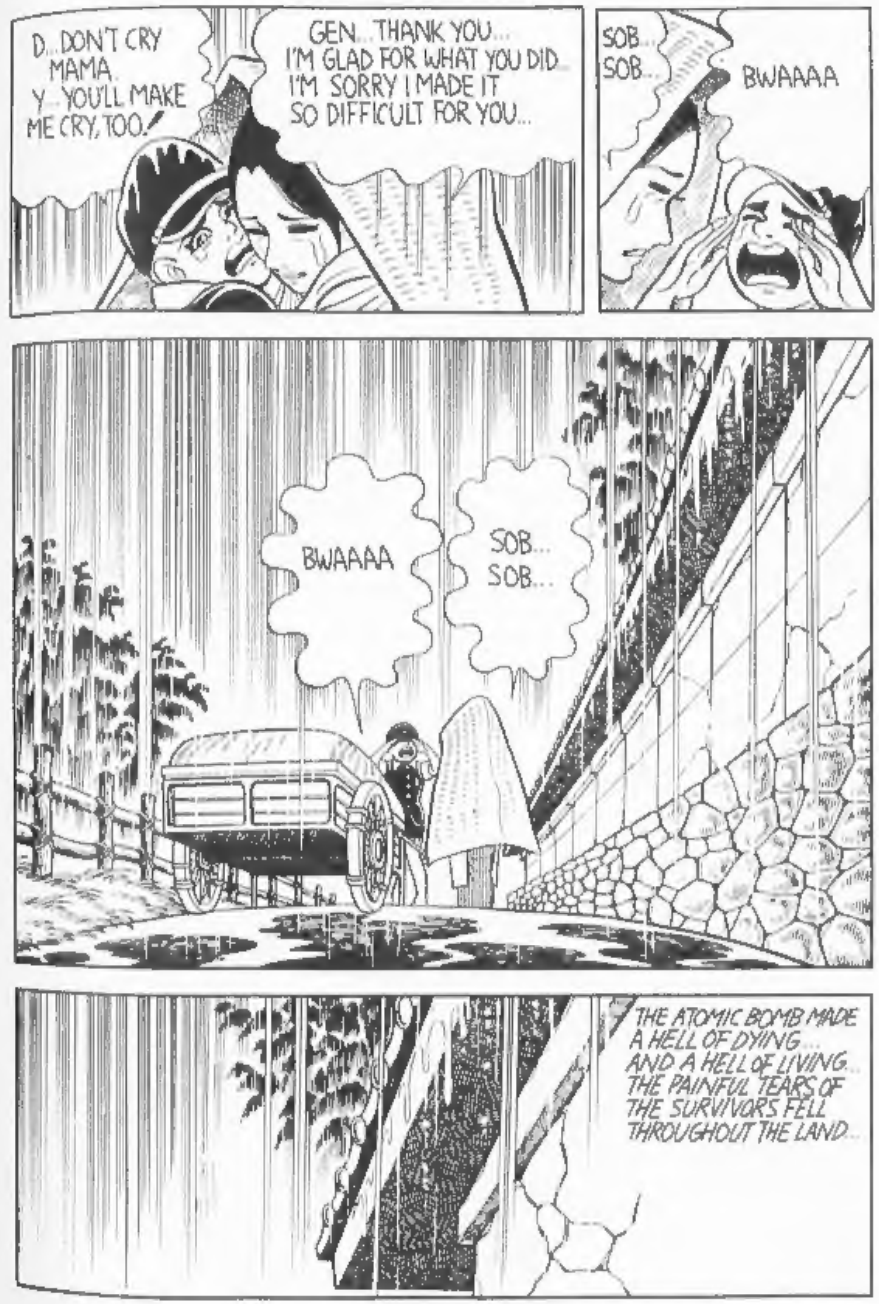
In translating comic books, as opposed to other written material, an entirely unique set of problems is encountered. The pictures themselves are the primary medium, and the words are supplementary, but while the words may be translated into a foreign language, the pictures themselves must usually remain in their original form. Normally this poses no problems, but at times cultural differences such as facial expressions or body language do become apparent. In such cases we have taken the liberty of altering or expanding the information available so the English reader will encounter a minimum of difficulty. The emphasis on translation has been on fluidity and readability in English while retaining the essence of the original Japanese meaning.

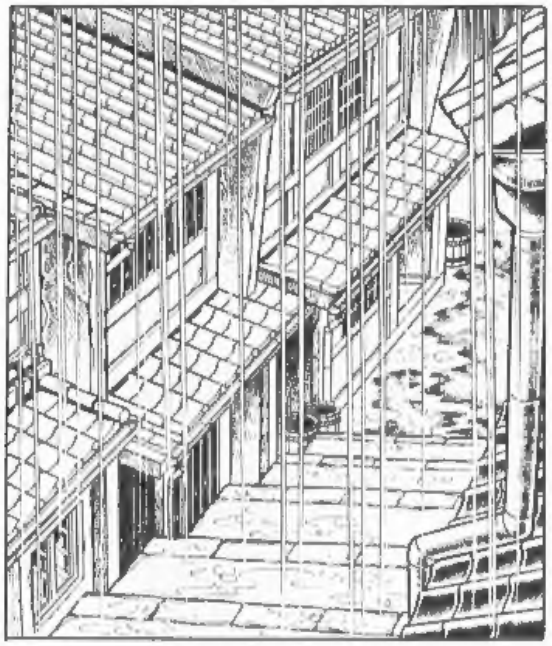
The reader may be disturbed by the frequency with which characters slap or knock one another, or perplexed when Gen bursts out singing in the face of adversity. In the first case, violence is a form of exaggeration commonly used in the Japanese comic idiom for dramatic effect; it also reflects the tensions in people's lives at the time. In the second case another sort of caricature is used to reflect Gen's indomitable spirit. We are convinced, however, that differences such as these will present no obstacle to enjoyment of the story and an appreciation of its major themes.

Barefoot Gen is the saga of a triumph of human spirit in the midst of one of the world's greatest tragedies. It is a story and a message which we believe must be told to the world—the story of Gen, and the message of "No More Hiroshimas".

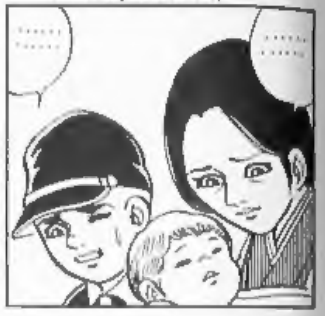
DADAKAI


GRRRR
GEN. YOU DID WELL. NOW WE CAN LEAVE THIS HOUSE WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE. YOU'VE PROVED WE DID NOTHING WRONG.
KI...KIMIE... I'M S-SORRY...
KIYO, I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE CAUSED YOU. FORGIVE US...
LATER
RAIN RAIN, LET IT FALL! TOMORROW'S A NEW DAY... A GOOD DAY FOR ALL!
MAMA....!
GEN...

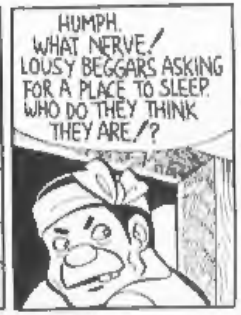

D...DON'T CRY MAMA. Y...YOU'LL MAKE ME CRY, TOO!
GEN... THANK YOU... I'M GLAD FOR WHAT YOU DID. I'M SORRY I MADE IT SO DIFFICULT FOR YOU...
SOB... SOB...
BWAAAA
BWAAAA
SOB... SOB...
THE ATOMIC BOMB MADE A HELL OF DYING... AND A HELL OF LIVING... THE PAINFUL TEARS OF THE SURVIVORS FELL THROUGHOUT THE LAND...

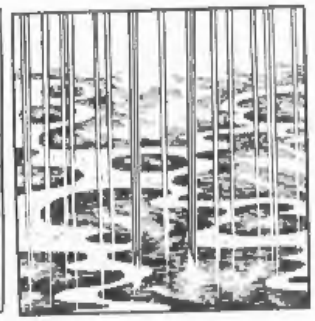


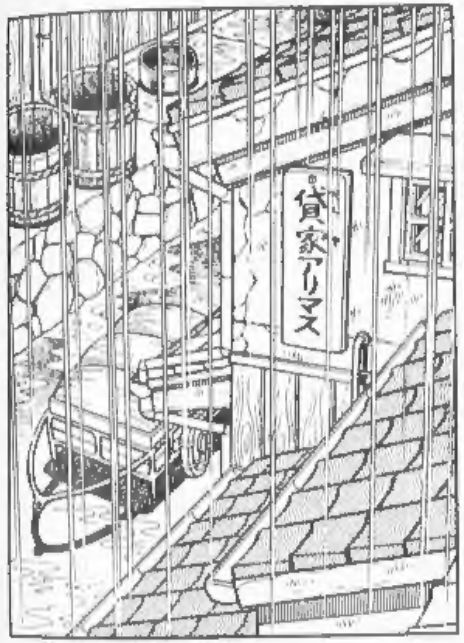
SIGN: ROOMS FOR RENT



YOU'RE A BEGGAR FROM THE HIROSHIMA BOMB! YOU'VE GOT NO REFERENCES!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY! AND YOU WANT ME TO RENT A ROOM TO A COUPLE OF DIRTY BEGGARS LIKE YOU?!





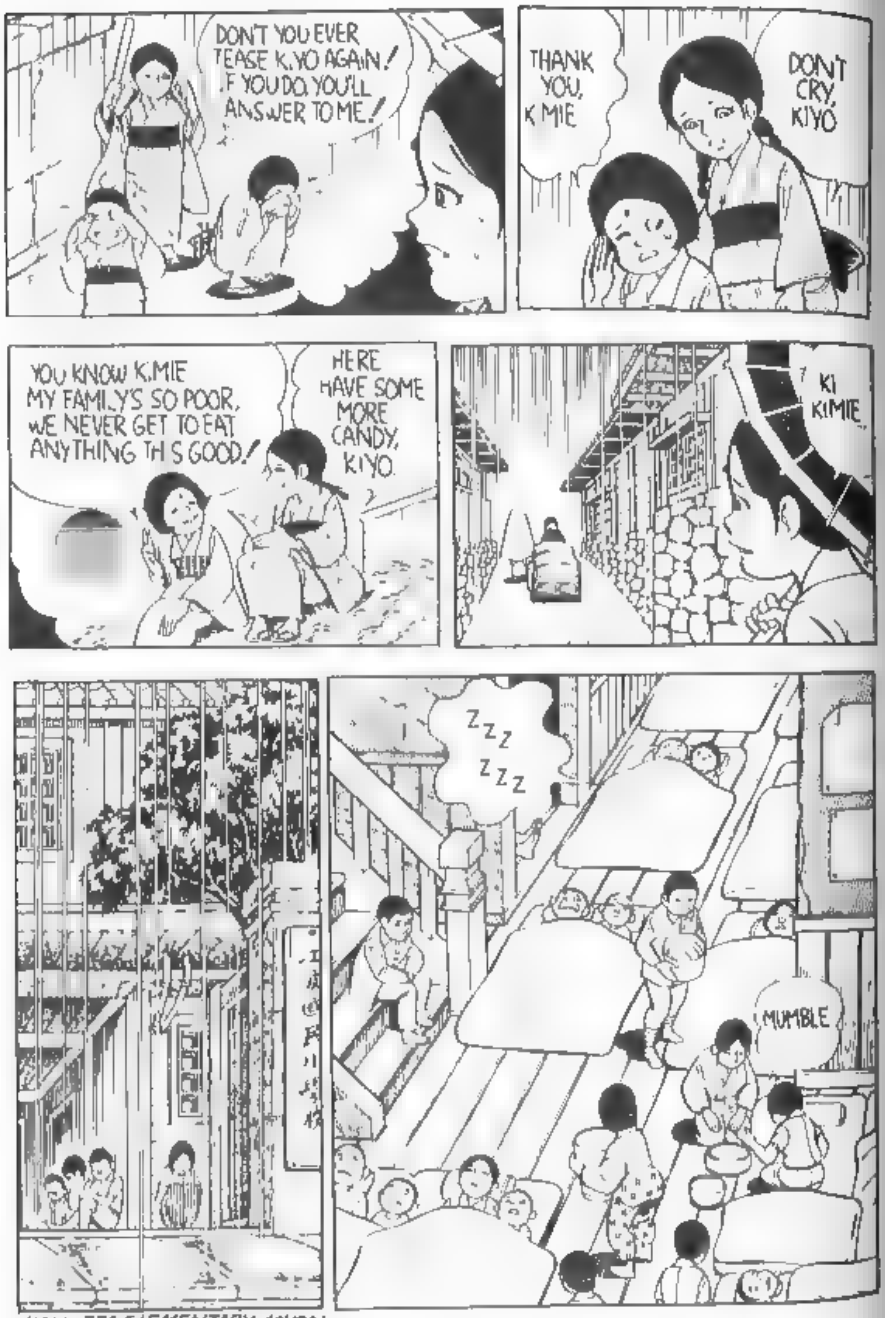


SIGN: ROOMS FOR RENT

WHY... YOU ROTTEN LITTLE BEGGAR! TRY TO THREATEN ME WILL YOU?! GO ON! GET OUTA HERE!
AIEEE!
M...MY... P...PIPE B...BURNED A HOLE!
SEE? DIDN'T I TELL YOU!
D...DAMN YOU! YOU'VE CURSED ME!
SALT! GET ME SOME SALT!*
* IN JAPAN, SALT IS USED FOR RITUAL PURIFICATION.
GET AWAY! DON'T EVER SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN!
I HOPE YOUR HOUSE BURNS! I HOPE IT BURNS DOWN! YOU DESERVE IT, YOU OAF!
I CAN'T STAND IT, MAMA...
GEN... STOP... PLEASE...

I'M SORRY. WE'RE FILLED UP GO ASK SOMEWHERE ELSE.
貸間アリマス
PLEASE... EVEN A CLOSET WOULD BE FINE... PLEASE... ANYTHING...
SIGN: ROOMS TO LET
IF YOU WANT A PLACE TO SLEEP, GO ASK AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. I HEAR THEY'RE PUTTING UP BOMB VICTIMS OVER THERE.
OH...
T... THANK YOU...
WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE THEM A ROOM, DEAR? OUR INN IS EMPTY.
QUIET, FOOL! IF WE GAVE THEM A ROOM ALL WE'D DO IS LOSE MONEY!
THE FIRST THING YOU KNOW THEY'D DIE IN ONE OF OUR ROOMS AND THERE ISN'T ANYONE TO CLAIM THE BODY. SO WE'D GET STUCK WITH THE FUNERAL BILL!
OH...
IT'S BEST TO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THOSE BOMB VICTIMS!
.....
.....

MEANWHILE...


DON'T YOU EVER TEASE K.YO AGAIN! IF YOU DO, YOU'LL ANSWER TO ME!
THANK YOU, K.MIE
DON'T CRY, KIYO
YOU KNOW K.MIE MY FAMILY'S SO POOR, WE NEVER GET TO EAT ANYTHING TH S GOOD!
HERE HAVE SOME MORE CANDY, K.YO
KI KIMIE
Z Z Z Z Z Z
MUMBLE
SIGN EBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MUMBLE MUMBLE
GRUMBLE
THERE'S NO PLACE TO SLEEP HERE EITHER, GEN
WHAT WILL WE DO? WE MUST FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY
THE PEOPLE HERE SURE ARE COLD NO ONE'S LIFTED A FINGER TO HELP US
IF ONLY WE HAD SOME MONEY
IT'S THE SAME EVERYWHERE EVERYONE LOOKS OUT ONLY FOR HIMSELF
BUT I'VE TRULY FELT THE WRETCHEDNESS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE
THE WRETCHEDNESS THAT MAKES THEM TRAMPLE PEOPLE WHO ARE WEAK
BOW WOW
AH!
GROWR

GET AWAY YOU ROTTEN DOG!
GRRR
ARRR
GEN! HELP!
GROWL
SNARL
CRUNCH
GRRR
TRY AND HURT US WILL YOU!
I'LL TEAR YOU APART, YOU STUPID DOG!
WHOP!
HAH
BOZK
TAKE THAT!
ZIAP
AND THAT!
PUFF PUFF DAMN

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAMA?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY DON'T YOU STAND UP?
MAMA! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!
GEN I WANT TO DIE I WANT TO DIE..
SOB SOB
WE'LL FIND A PLACE TO LIVE! COME ON! WE'LL LOOK SOME MORE
KIYO, LET'S PROMISE TO ALWAYS HELP EACH OTHER
I LIKE YOU, KIMIE! YOU ALWAYS LOOK AFTER ME!
SOB SOB
SQUISH
K K, YO!
KIMIE! I'M SORRY I THREW YOU OUT

I BECAME WORRIED ABOUT YOU AND DECIDED TO COME AFTER YOU!
PLEASE COME BACK TO THE HOUSE!
BUT WON'T YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW MAKE TROUBLE FOR US AGAIN?
N...NO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL PROTECT YOU
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND. YOU ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF ME
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO HELP YOU!
KIMIE, LET'S ALWAYS BE FRIENDS
OH K KIYO!
I BECAME BLINDED BY MY OWN HARDSHIPS. I ALMOST LOST A VALUABLE FRIEND
GEN, I'M SORRY YOU MUST HATE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW
WE... I DID FEEL LIKE WRINGING HER NECK.
HA/HA! YOU SURE SPEAK YOUR MIND
HEH HEH HEH

THUMP
WHUMP
DUST
SWEEP
CLEANING TIME/ CLEANING TIME/
HUMPH/ EVEN THOUGH WE FINALLY GOT RID OF 'EM KIYO HAD TO DRAG 'EM BACK
LOOK AT THEM GRANDMA!
BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE STAYING IN THE STOREROOM THIS TIME.
AND THEY'LL PAY RENT AND FIX THEIR OWN MEALS
YOU MEAN THEY AREN'T GOING TO EAT OUR FOOD!?
THAT'S RIGHT
WHOOPEE!
HURRAY/ WE WON'T GET LESS RICE NOW, TAKEKO!
BUT IF THEY CAUSE US ANY TROUBLE AGAIN, I'LL KICK THEM OUT!

THERE! IT'S FINALLY CLEAN!
WELL FROM TODAY ON, THIS WILL BE OUR HOME!

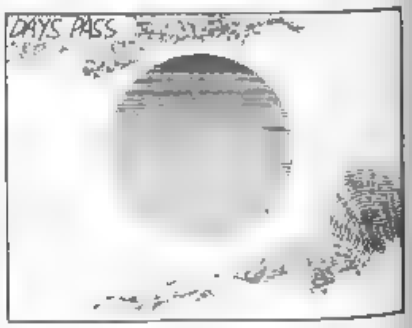
YES, GEN YOU CAN RELAX NOW BECAUSE WE'LL PAY OUR OWN RENT
YOUR MOTHER WILL LOOK FOR WORK AS SOON AS SHE CAN

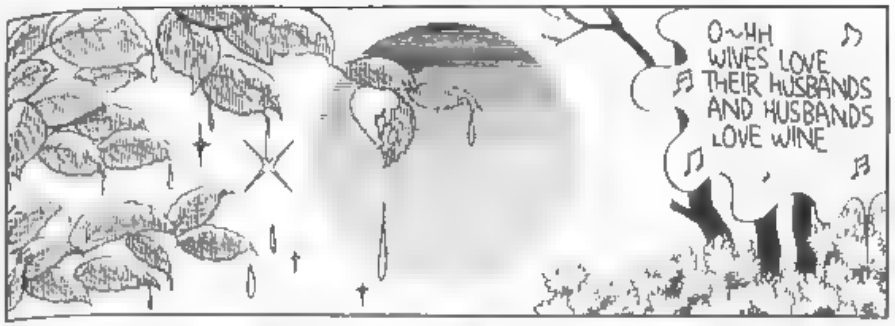
KIMIE I'M SORRY YOU HAVE TO STAY IN THIS OLD STORE ROOM
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT THIS WAY WE BOTH FEEL BETTER

OH MY
HERE IT'S A MOVING-IN PRESENT

TH THANK YOU KIYO
DON'T TELL GRANDMA.. IT'S A SECRET

BE STRONG, KIMIE THINGS CAN'T STAY BAD FOREVER
Y YES I'LL TRY


DAYS PASS


O~HH WIVES LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS AND HUSBANDS LOVE WINE

ONE SUMMER DAY, IN THE MONTH OF JUNE THEY LEFT THE COUNTRY FOR THE MOUNTAIN SIDE

GAA GOO
TO SIT BENEATH THE COOL MOON'S LIGHT

I'M SO HAPPY, GEN
IT SURE FEELS GREAT, MAMA! AND TOMOKO'S HAVING FUN TOO.

GA GA
YOU LIKE TO TAKE A BATH, TOMOKO?

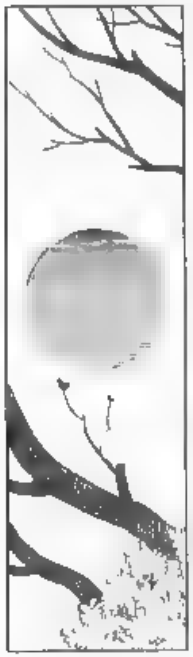
SPLASH
AGH!

HAHA
HAHA
AGH LITTLE TOMOKO FEELS SO RELAXED SHE LEAKED!

HAH HAH SHE'S JUST A BABY, GEN SHE CAN'T HELP IT!

SHE SHE LAUGHED! MAMA LAUGHED! IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EVEN SEEN HER SMILE

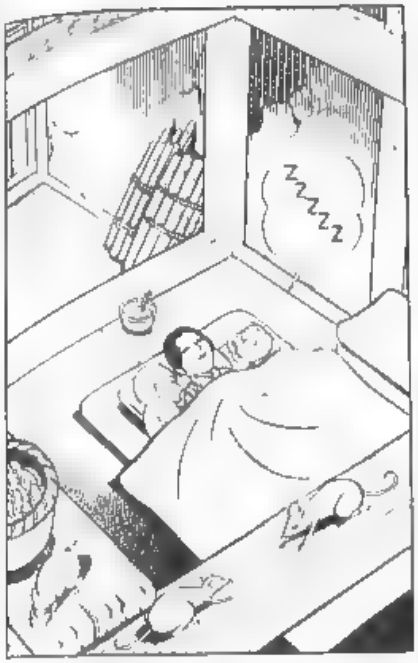
IT'LL FEEL GOOD TO BE CLEAN AGAIN
YOU GET IN NEXT, MAMA I'LL SCRUB YOUR BACK FOR YOU



OWW GEN, NOT SO HARD
ONE TWO ONE TWO

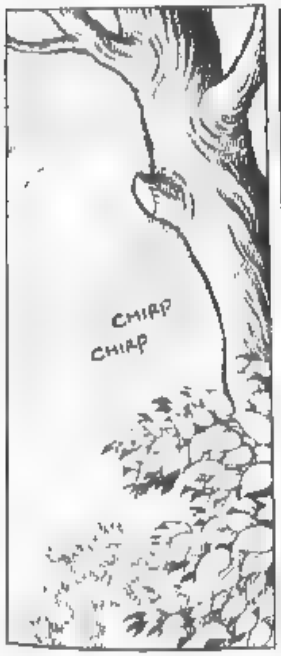
POOR MAMA SHE'S NOTHING BUT SKIN AND BONES

YOU'VE GOT TO STAY HEALTHY, MAMA BUT DON'T WORRY I'LL HELP YOU


ZZZZZ

FOR ONCE GEN, TOMOKO AND HIS MOTHER WERE HAPPY

WITH GEN WISHING THIS COULD CONTINUE FOREVER AUGUST 11, 1945 CAME TO AN END

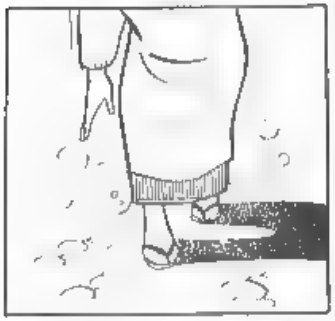

CHIRP CHIRP

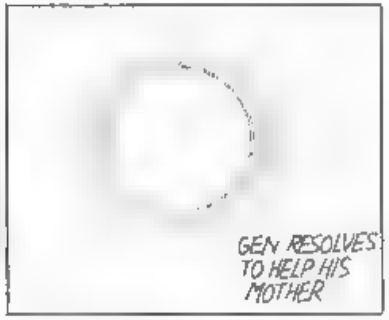
WAH WAH

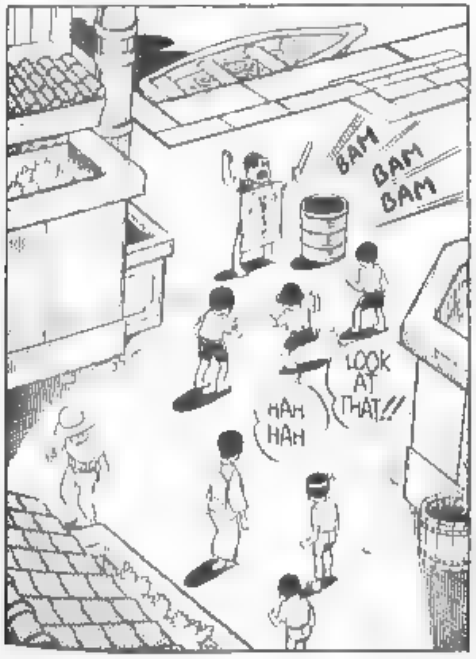
SHHH! STOP YOUR CRYING TOMOKO AND DRINK THIS RICE SOUP!
WAH WAH

GOO GAH
HERE YOU GO

I KNOW MOTHER'S BREAST WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU, BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THIS SOAKED CLOTH NOW







SIGN PLEASE GIVE ME WORK!

HAH HAH! LOOK AT THE FUNNY BEGGAR!
NYAA! BEGGAR
WHY YOU I'M NOT A BEGGAR I'M ASKING TO BE PAID FOR WORK!!

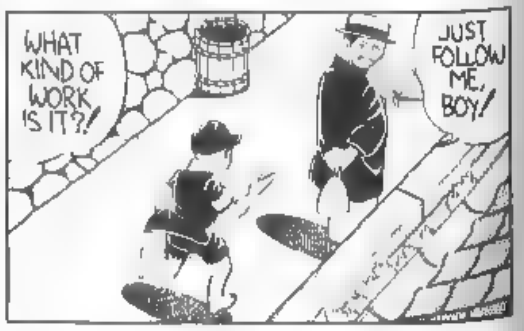
COME HERE AGAIN AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR HEADS TOGETHER!!
HA HA! THE BEGGARS ANGRY!

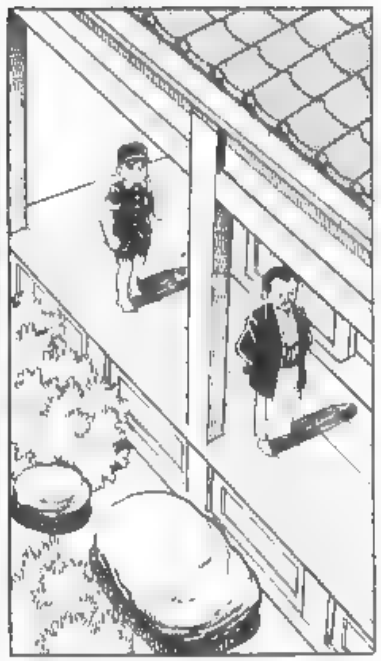
ALL I'M TRYING TO DO IS EARN SOME MONEY FOR MY MOTHER.
EARN SOME MONEY

PLEASE WORK, PLEASE!

HMPH WILLING TO DO ANY KIND OF WORK SONNY?!
ER YES, SIR

GOOD! I'VE GOT SOME FOR YOU. FOLLOW ME!
R REALLY?! GEE, THANK YOU, SIR!


WHAT KIND OF WORK IS IT?!
JUST FOLLOW ME, BOY!



THIS IS SUCH A BIG HOUSE. WONDER WHAT THEY WANT ME TO DO.

I'M BACK
WELCOME HOME DEAR

WHO'S THIS?
HMPH THOUGHT I'D PUT HIM TO WORK FOR US

HE SAID HE'D DO ANYTHING
B BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK A YOUNG BOY LIKE HIM

IF YOU DON'T RUN AWAY, BOY, I'LL GIVE YOU THREE YEN A DAY
THREE YEN?! REALLY?!

IN 1985 3 YEN WAS WORTH 3,000 YEN IN TODAY'S MONEY (OR ABOUT 15 U.S DOLLARS)

HEH HEH GOSH! 3 YEN A DAY!!
COME WITH ME
BUT WHAT KIND OF WORK IS IT, SIR?
WHAT A STRANGE FAMILY I WONDER WHY THOSE SISTERS ARE LAUGHING AT ME?
TEE HEE
MY GOSH! WHAT AN AWFUL SMELL!! IT MAKES ME FEEL SICK
!!
THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL WORK, BOY
B. BUT

NO!
TEE HEE THIS LL BE FUN TO SEE, WON'T IT
JUST WATCH, AKIKO HE'S SO SHOCKED HE'LL RUN AWAY
UGHH
GAG GASP!

GASP
HEH, HEH. YOU WERE RIGHT, FUYUKO

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT BOY?!
YES I JUST FELT A LITTLE SICK, THAT'S ALL

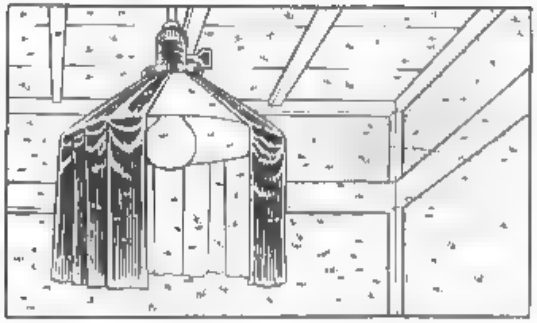
WHAT ARE YOU TWO GIRLS STANDING AROUND LOOKING AT?!
ER WE'RE JUST WATCHING TO SEE IF THAT NEW BOY RUNS AWAY, MOTHER

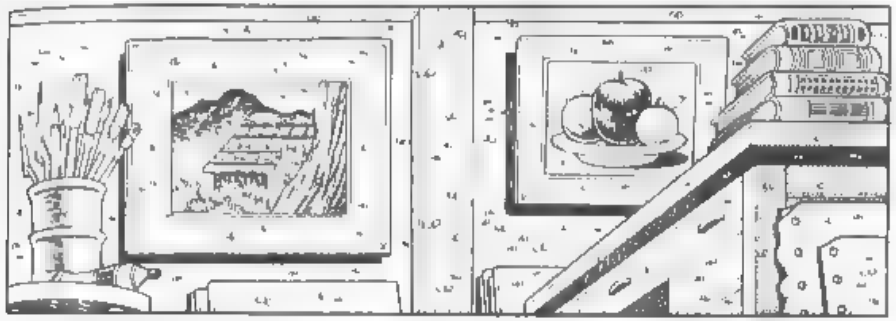
FOOL! THAT'S JUST WHAT WE DON'T WANT HIM TO DO!!
OOPS! SORRY, MOTHER..

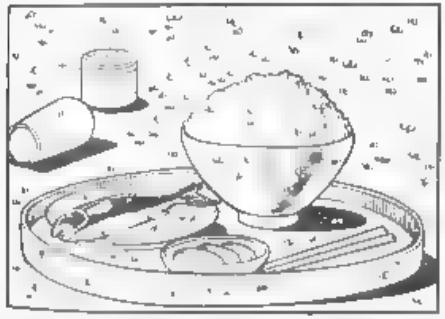
NOW HURRY UP AND GET AWAY FROM HERE! I'VE TOLD YOU NOT TO GO NEAR THAT ROOM!
YES, MA'AM

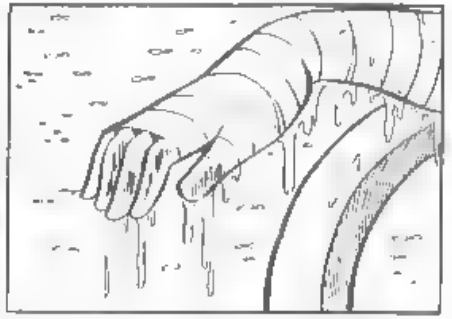
THIS WHOLE HOUSE SMELLS SO BAD I CAN HARDLY STAND IT. IF ONLY HE'D HURRY UP AND DIE

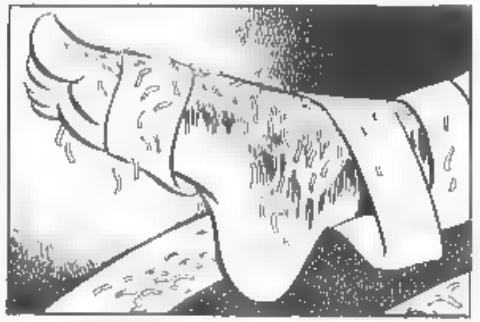
GASP











SEIJI, THIS BOY WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU FROM TODAY ON. IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, ASK HIM
ALL RIGHT BOY IF YOU CHANGE MY KID BROTHER'S BANDAGES AND TREAT HIS WOUNDS I'LL GIVE YOU THREE YEN UNDERSTAND?
ER YES
W WAIT, ELZO. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU
S SORRY.. I'M BUSY NOW, SEIJI

NO ELZO WAIT PLEASE
HE'S ALL YOURS, BOY
Y YESSIR
THIS IS AWFUL! HE'S COVERED WITH MAGGOTS AND PUS AND LYING IN HIS OWN MESS! HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE LEFT HIM LIKE THIS!?
HE..P! I'M ITCHING ALL OVER THE MAGGOTS THAT HAVE HATCHED IN MY BURNS HAVE STARTED MOVING! HURRY UP AND TAKE THEM OFF ME!
ER YESSIR
AGH! IT ITCHES! HURRY, USE THOSE TWEEZERS!
GROAN
HOLD ST..L NOW
GROAN
WERE YOU CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION, TOO, MISTER SEIJ.?

NOW WHAT?
MY HANDS H HURRY
POIK
S-SORRY
OWWW
STUPID FOOL !!
BAM
WHY WHY'D YOU DO THAT?
HAH! I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT I KNOW YOUR KIND!
:GASP: YOU'RE MAKING 3 YEN A DAY OUT OF MY BEING SICK YOU SHOULD THANK ME!

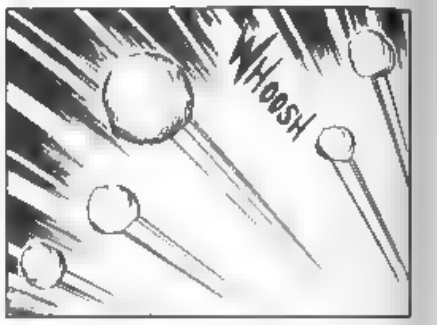
HE MUST BE CRAZY HOW CAN HE STAND T? IT MAKES ME SICK
LOOK AKIKO. THAT BOY'S STILL HERE
RIP
PLEASE BE PATIENT SIR THE DRIED PUS IS MAKING YOUR BANDAGE STICK
OWW !!
BAM
IDIOT !!
OWWW
YOU'RE GETTING 3 YEN A DAY, SKINHEAD SO BE CAREFUL
THE OLD GOAT AT LEAST HE DOESN'T HAVE TO H T ME

HOW CAN HE TALK THAT WAY I OUGHT TO PUNCH HIM BACK
WAAAH GAAA
OH GEN WHAT'LL WE DO?! WITHOUT MONEY WE'RE HELPLESS
SOB GEN WE'VE GOT TO HAVE MONEY
I'VE GOT TO HELP MAMA I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH ANYTHING TO EARN MONEY FOR HER
JUST WAIT, MAMA I'LL EARN THE MONEY. PROMISE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, BOY?! HURRY UP AND CHANGE THE BANDAGE!
RRRIP... RRRIP...

FINALLY I FINISHED!
WELL DON'T JUST SIT THERE, HURRY UP AND CLEAN THE ROOM!!
Y-YES SIR
WHOOPS-A-DAISY
MAKE SURE YOU GET EVERYTHING CLEAN UNDERSTAND, SKINHEAD?!
WHY THE, I WISH HE'D STOP CALLING ME THAT
HMPH
MY NAME ISN'T "SKINHEAD"! IT'S GEN NAKAOKA!!
"HMPH" YOURSELF
HEH HEH

TEN FOR THE TEMPLE NINE FOR THE PRIEST

EIGHT FOR THE ALTAR... SEVEN FOR THE FEAST...


WHOOSH

OWW
OWW

LOOK AT THE MONSTER'S KIDS!
YEAH // YOUR UNCLE'S A MONSTER!
HAH HAH YOU LIVE IN A HAUNTED HOUSE!

:SOB:
NYAAA NYAAA
BETTER STAY IN YOUR HOUSE! YOU BOTH STINK WHEN YOU COME OUT OF IT!

HAH HAH
HAH HAH! THE MONSTER KID'S CRY.NG!
:SOB:

.SOB SOB:
HOW COULD THEY SAY SUCH A THING!

AKIKO. FUYUKO WHAT'S THE MATTER?
.SOB:

GLARE

MONSTER! WHY DON'T YOU JUST HURRY UP AND DIE!!

GROAN
:SOB'
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?

SKINHEAD! I'M TH.RSTY! BRING ME SOME WATER!!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU MY NAME .SN'T "SKINHEAD"!
SHUT UP AND DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

WHY DOES HE TREAT ME THIS WAY?! WHAT AN AWFUL MAN!!

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. WHERE CAN I GET SOME WATER?!
WHAT?! DIDN'T WE TELL YOU NOT TO COME IN THIS ROOM?!

D DID DO SOMETHING WRONG?!
YOU MUSTN'T COME NEAR US. YOU'RE CONTAMINATED WITH THE DISEASE SEIJI GOT IN THE EXPLOSION.

YOU ARE TO USE WATER FROM THE WELL IN THE GARDEN AND I'LL PUT MEALS IN THE HALLWAY FOR YOU TO COME AND GET
YES MA'AM

GO ON NOW GO BACK TO SEIJI'S ROOM! YOU'LL MAKE ME ILL!

HOW CAN PEOPLE TREAT THEIR OWN FLESH AND BLOOD LIKE THIS?! HOW CAN THEY BE SO CRUEL!?

WHO EVER HEARD OF "CATCHING" THE INJURIES CAUSED BY THE BLAST?!
I'VE MET HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE IN THE EXPLOSION AND I FEEL FINE!

LISTEN, DEAR COULDN'T WE PUT YOUR BROTHER IN A HOSPITAL?!
IT'S USELESS THEY'RE ALL OVERFLOWING WITH VICTIMS OF THE BLAST

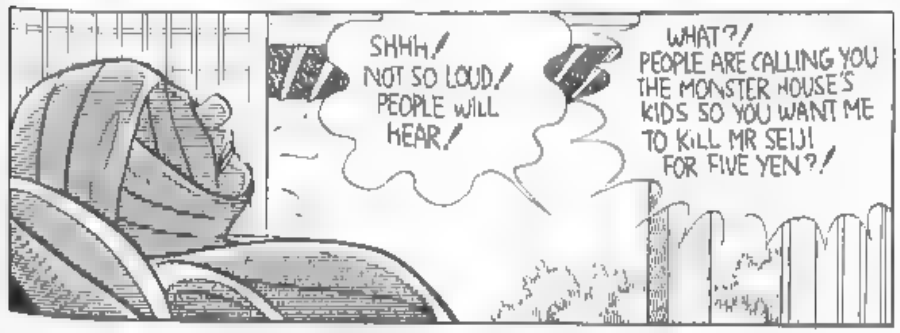
WELL, I'M SICK AND TIRED OF TAKING CARE OF A MONSTER LIKE THAT! THEY'RE EVEN MAKING FUN OF THE CHILDREN! IT'S HUMILIATING!
SEIJI IS MY ONLY BROTHER, HANA YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT

HEY, YOU

I WANT TO TELL YOU SOMETHING
WHAT ?

PSST PSST

WHAT ?!


SHHH! NOT SO LOUD! PEOPLE WILL HEAR!
WHAT?! PEOPLE ARE CALLING YOU THE MONSTER HOUSE'S KIDS SO YOU WANT ME TO KILL MR SEIJI FOR FIVE YEN?!

BOK
WHY I OUGHT TO KNOCK SOME SENSE INTO YOU YOU BRAT!
WAH!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, ASKING ME TO MURDER YOUR UNCLE!?
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS FAMILY!!
HERE. I BROUGHT YOU YOUR WATER.
WHAP
WHA WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! I BROUGHT IT FOR YOU.
Y YOU'RE JUST MAKING FUN OF ME
I'M NOT THIRSTY ANYMORE SKINHEAD
TOLD YOU I'M GEN NAKAOKA!
HAND ME THAT BOOK, SKINHEAD!

HERE
WH WHAT'S HE TRYING TO DO?!
PICK IT UP, SKINHEAD!
HERE NOW DON'T DROP IT
WHAM
WHY YOU
PICK IT UP SKINHEAD!
IS THAT ENOUGH?!
OWW
WHAP
PICK IT UP, SKINHEAD!
GRRRR
THAT JERK! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!!

WHAP
ACT YOUR AGE, MISTER!!

CRANKY OLD FOOL!

HOW CAN I TAKE CARE OF YOU WHEN YOU ACT THIS WAY?! I'M GOING HOME.!!

I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY NOW!!

G GEN
W WAIT
GEN NAKAOKA
WAIT

WHY YOU SAID MY NAME !

AND YOU'RE CRYING! DID IT HURT THAT MUCH WHEN I SLAPPED YOU ?!
NO NO I, I'M HAPPY

HAPPY?! YOU MEAN YOU'RE HAPPY BECAUSE I HIT YOU? YOU MUST BE CRAZY

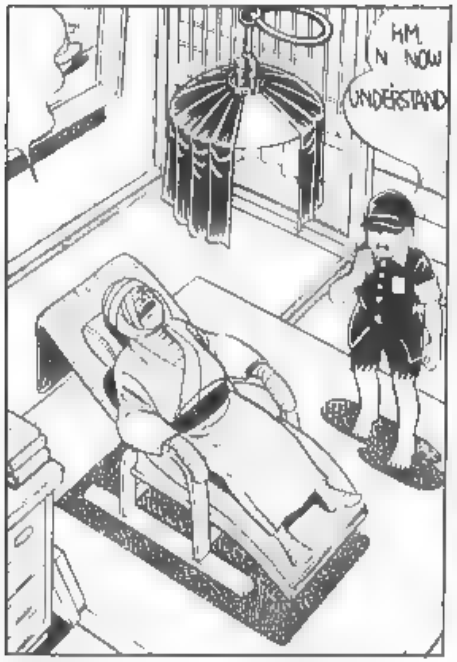
NO.! I'M HAPPY, GEN.!!

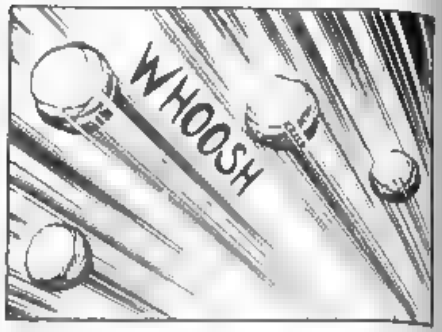
Y YOU'RE THE ONLY HONEST PERSON I'VE MET, GEN

EVERYONE ELSE AVOIDS ME THEY DON'T SPEAK TO ME AND THEY DON'T EVEN GET ANGRY AT ME

I'VE BEEN SO LONELY
SO FRUSTRATED

I JUST COULDN'T STAND IT ANYMORE, AND THAT'S WHY I ACTED SO AWFUL TO YOU.
I DON'T WANT ANY PITY. I JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TREAT ME LIKE THE HUMAN I AM


HM.
N NOW
UNDERSTAND


WHOOSH

WHAP
THWAP

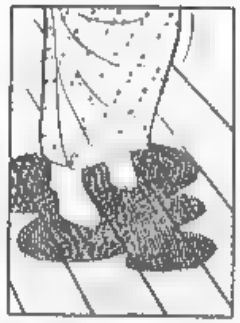
NYAAGH
SMELLS LIKE A GARBAGE DUMP!
MONSTER! MONSTER! YOSH, DA'S HOUSE'S HAUNTED!

I'LL SHOW YOU!

UH OH LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
BOK
TAKE THIS!!

STUPID KIDS!

FUYUKO, DON'T YOU WISH UNCLE SEIJI WOULD HURRY UP AND DIE?
I'M SO TIRED OF BEING TEASED ALL THE TIME



HERE
THIS IS THE FOOD I WANT YOU TO GIVE SEIJI

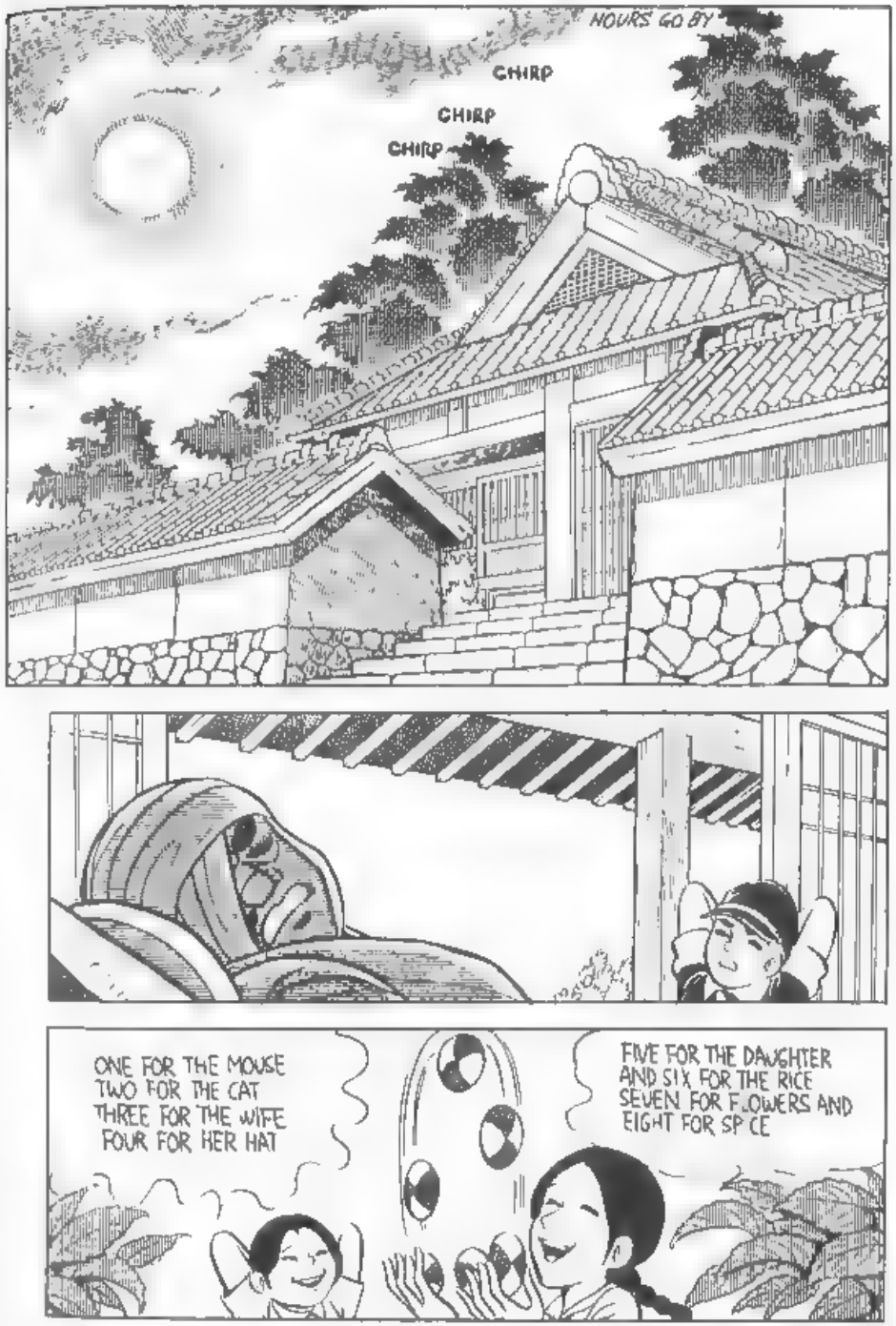
WHAT AN AWFUL WOMAN
AT LEAST SHE COULD TAKE THE FOOD TO HIS ROOM

HE MUST BE LIVING IN HELL
LIFE FOR ANYONE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST IS HELL

HERE'S YOUR FOOD, MR SEIJI

I'M NOT HUNGRY
BUT YOU HAVE TO EAT! IF YOU DON'T EAT YOU'LL DIE!!

YOU'VE GOT TO EAT TO GET WELL/ HERE/
G GEN
W WHAT ARE YOU CRYING ABOUT NOW?/
Y YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD FELLOW
TAKE GOOD CARE OF SEIJI, SONNY
SEIJI I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME
THIS IS THE BEST I CAN DO FOR YOU


HOURS GO BY
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
ONE FOR THE MOUSE TWO FOR THE CAT THREE FOR THE WIFE FOUR FOR HER HAT
FIVE FOR THE DAUGHTER AND SIX FOR THE RICE SEVEN FOR FLOWERS AND EIGHT FOR SPICE

SISTER, SISTER, WHERE DO YOU GO? YOKOHAMA, SHIMIZU OR TOKYO?
HAH, HAH! YOU LOSE, FUYUKO!
OOOPS
NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN, AKIKO!
I I USED TO HAVE SO MUCH FUN PLAYING WITH MY TWO NIECES
N NOW WHY ARE YOU CRYING?!
HELLO, LADIES!
UNCLE SEIJI! UNCLE SEIJI! LET'S GO DRAWING!

OH WE'RE OFF TO SKETCH THE MOUNTAINS WE'RE OFF TO SKETCH THE SEA
UNCLE SEIJI WHEN YOU GROW UP ARE YOU GOING TO BE AN ART ST?
THAT'S RIGHT WHEN THE WAR'S OVER I'M GOING TO GO STUDY ART N PARIS!
YOU L.. HAVE TO TEACH US TOO
WELL, I'D BE GLAD TO HEH HEH BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, HEH HEH
BITE HIM AKIKO!!
DID YOU HEAR THAT FUYUKO?!
HAH HAH LAST ONE HERE'S A ROTTEN EGG!
WAIT!
WAIT FOR US!

WELL, SEIJI, CONGRATULATIONS! THIS IS THE ELEVENTH TIME YOUR WORK HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THE PREFECTURAL ART EXHIBITION!
YOU'RE MY ONLY BROTHER AND I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO HELP YOU BECOME AN ARTIST, SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
TH THANK YOU

WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU, SEIJI
THANK YOU

HERE'S TO SEIJI'S FUTURE!

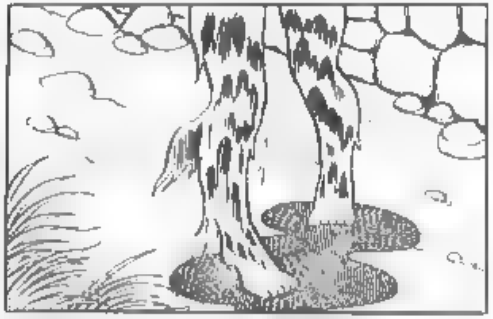
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU TOO, UNCLE SEIJI! WE EVEN BRAG ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL!
EVERYONE'S ENVIOUS!

NOW BOTH OF YOU GIRLS WILL HAVE TO TRY EVEN HARDER
AND MAKE UP IN EFFORT FOR WHAT YOU LACK IN TALENT!

MOTHER!! EVEN YOU'RE TEASING US, NOW!

I HAD SO MUCH FUN BEFORE I WAS CAUGHT IN THE BLAST GEN.

IT HAPPENED JUST WHEN I WENT TO HIROSHIMA FOR LABOR SERVICE AS PART OF THE STUDENT MOBILIZATION



SLAM

AGH
EEK
WHA-?!

H HELP

H HELP
OH, MY
MAMA!
EEK! FATHER! IT'S A MONSTER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! GO AWAY! MONSTER!
N NO! T'S ME SEIJ..!
Y YOU'RE SEIJI?! MPOSSIBLE! YOU MUST BE LYING!
NO! DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?! I I'M YOUR BROTHER!
MAMA! I'M SCARED!
M H HELP ME

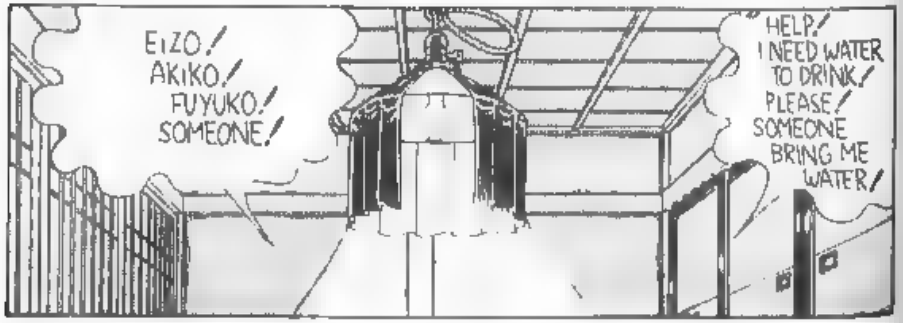
GROAN
GAG
GASP!
GROAN
MUMBLE MUMBLE!
DO YOU SUPPOSE HE HAS TUBERCULOSIS, DEAR?! HE'S COUGHED UP SO MUCH BLOOD INTO THE WASH BASIN!
IT SME..LS SO BAD HE'S MAKING A BLOODY MESS, TOO!

AKIKO AND FUYUKO HAD BETTER STAY AWAY FROM HIM OR THEY MIGHT CATCH H S DISEASE!
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT

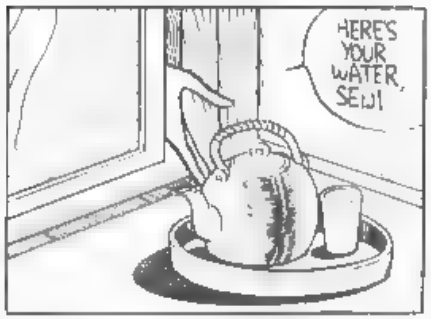
YOU TWO GIRLS MUST MAKE A POINT OF STAYING AWAY FROM SEIJI UNDERSTAND?!
YES MOTHER

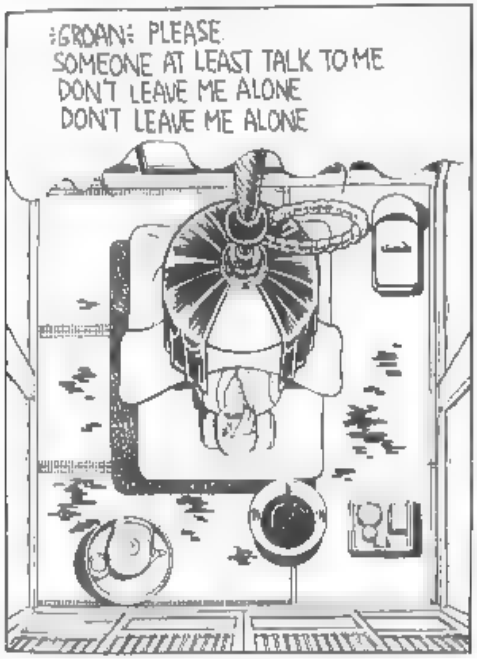
HMM
WE'D BETTER NOT GO NEAR HIM EITHER HEALTHY PEOPLE HAVE DIED JUST FROM WALKING IN THE AREA WHERE THE BOMB EXPLODED.

LET'S NAIL THE DOOR SHUT SO NO ONE CAN ENTER OR LEAVE!
JUST THINK IF WE CAUGHT WHAT HE HAS AND DIED!

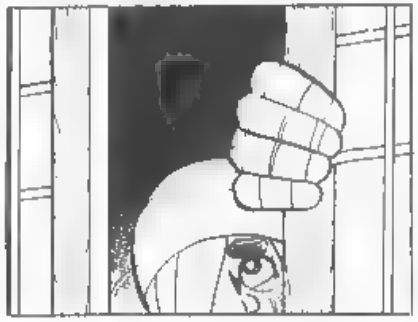

EIZO! AKIKO! FUYUKO! SOMEONE!
HELP! I NEED WATER TO DRINK! PLEASE! SOMEONE BRING ME WATER!

P PLEASE HELP ME DRINK IT I CANT MOVE WITH THESE BURNS!
NOW, SEIJI PLEASE DONT ACT SELF SH


HERE'S YOUR WATER, SEIJI


:GROAN: PLEASE SOMEONE AT LEAST TALK TO ME DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE

:S IS THAT YOU AKIKO AND FUYUKO?!



HELP!
EEK!

NO PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE

:SOB:

WHEN MAGGOTS STARTED HATCHING IN MY BURNS THE FAMILY BEGAN TO AVOID ME EVEN MORE

AH IT ITCHES SO BAD! SOMEONE PLEASE TAKE THESE MAGGOTS OFF ME!!

DO SOMETHING FOR HIM
NO! YOU'RE HIS BROTHER! YOU HELP HIM!

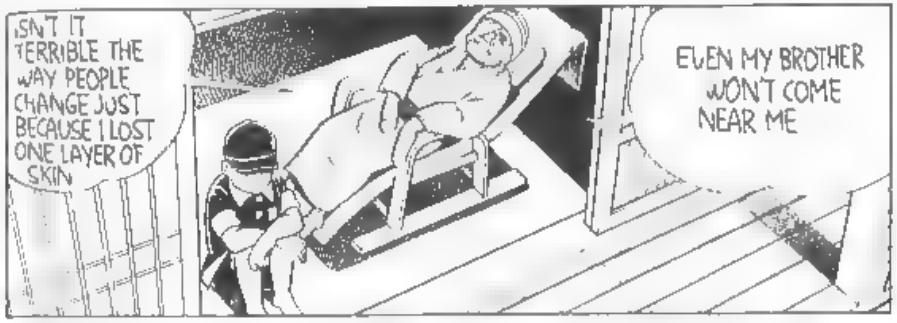
I CAN'T STAND IT! IT SMELLS SO BAD!
I WOULDN'T DO IT EVEN IF YOU KILLED ME!

OWW
FOOL!!
WHAP

WHY DID YOU HIT ME?! EVEN YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT!!
SILENCE WOMAN!

ISN'T IT AWFUL? IF ONLY SEIJI WASN'T HERE WE WOULDN'T QUARREL LIKE THIS.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO GO AND GET CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!? OF ALL THE

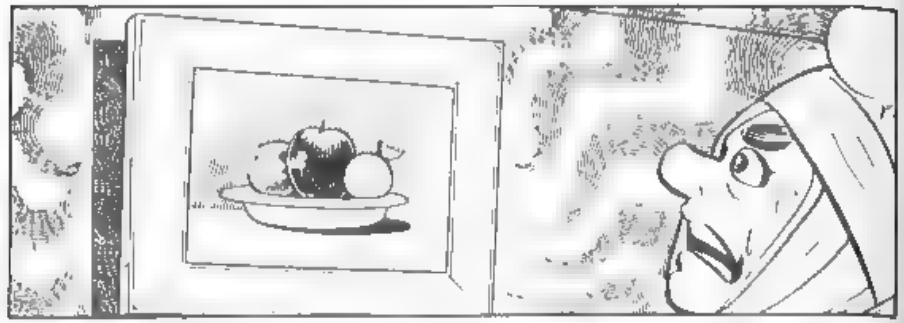
SO YOU SEE GEN I'VE WISHED I WAS DEAD EVERYDAY.

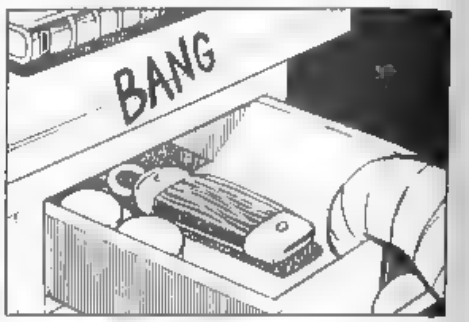

ISN'T IT TERRIBLE THE WAY PEOPLE CHANGE JUST BECAUSE I LOST ONE LAYER OF SKIN
EVEN MY BROTHER WON'T COME NEAR ME

SEVERAL PEOPLE HAVE COME HERE TO TAKE CARE OF ME BUT THEY ALL RAN AWAY WHEN THEY HEARD THE RUMOR THAT THE BOMB DISEASE IS CONTAGIOUS
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH MONEY AS YOU WANT IF YOU'LL JUST TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER
NO NO THANKS I'D RATHER STAY ALIVE

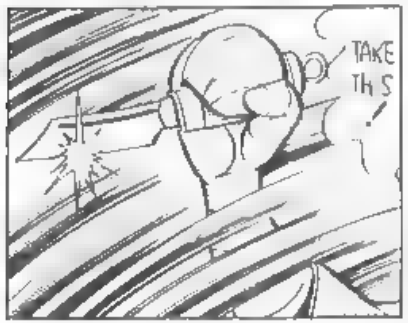
DAMN IT

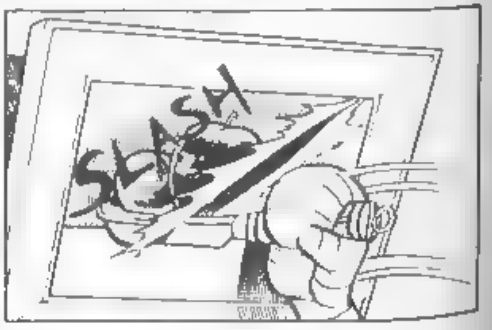
HOW CAN PEOPLE ACT THIS WAY?!
TREMBLE




BANG

W WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GASP


TAKE THIS!


SLASH

SLASH
TAKE THIS!

AND THIS!
R.I.P

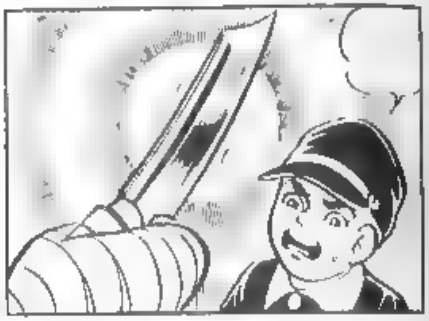
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I HATE THE BOMB THAT DID THIS TO ME!
I HATE THE BOMB THAT WRECKED MY DREAMS!

NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO PAINT AGAIN!
HOW CAN I EVEN HOLD A PAINT BRUSH IN HANDS LIKE THESE?!

:SOB:
I'M RUINED
I M JUST
WAITING TO
DIE
, DON'T WANT
TO LIVE LIKE
THIS ANY MORE!
PLEASE
JUST KILL ME!

GEN!
PLEASE!
STAB ME WITH
TH S AND GET IT
OVER WITH!



NO
!!
WHAP

I M NOT GOING
TO LET YOU DIE!
YOU'RE GOING
TO LIVE!!

WHY,
YOU
BESIDES
IF YOU DIE ,
WON'T BE PAID
MY THREE YEN!
I CAN'T
AFFORD
TO LET YOU
DIE!!

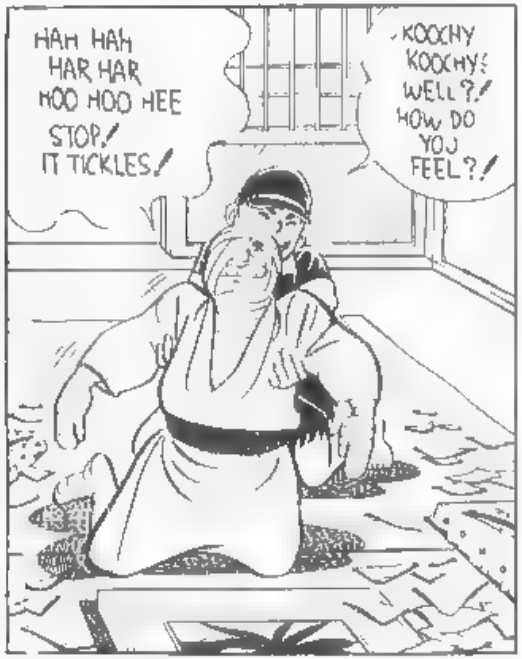
GET
HOLD
OF
YOURSELF
!
LISTEN TO ME!
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T
USE YOUR HANDS,
IF YOU'RE DETERMINED
YOU CAN PAINT
WITH YOUR MOUTH!

BUT
GEN
I'LL HELP YOU
SO YOU'VE
GOT TO TRY!

YOU CAN'T
GIVE UP NOW!
YOU'VE GOT
TO LIVE!

LETS SEE
YOU SMILE
A LITTLE
FIRST

WEL.
, GUESS I'LL
JUST HAVE TO
MAKE YOU
SMILE


HAH HAH
HAR HAR
HOO HOO HEE
STOP!
IT TICKLES!
, KOOCHY
KOOCHY!
WELL?!
HOW DO
YOU
FEEL?!

TICKLE
TICKLE

C'MON KEEP LAUGHING!
HEE HEE PLEASE STOP, GEN!
HAH HOO HEE STOP! I'M LAUGHING ALREADY!
GOOD!
WELL?! FEELS GOOD TO LAUGH DOESN'T IT?!
WHEW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
OH, GEN!
Y YOU WON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME LIKE THE OTHERS, WILL YOU GEN?!
GEN H HOW CAN I THANK YOU?!
Y YOU'VE MADE ME SO HAPPY YOU'VE GIVEN ME HOPE!!
LISTEN! I'VE SEEN HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HURT WORSE THAN YOU ARE AND IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME AT ALL!

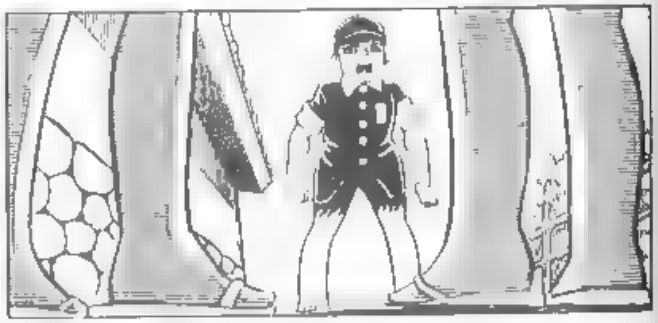
LATER
WELL SONNY CONGRATULATIONS! HERE'S THE THREE YEN I PROMISED YOU COME BACK AGAIN TOMORROW!
YOU BET I WILL, SIR!
WOW! I'VE MADE THREE YEN!!
NOW I'VE GOT TO HURRY HOME AND GIVE THIS TO MAMA!
BOY, WILL SHE EVER BE HAPPY! SHE'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO BUY SOME MILK FOR TOMOKO
HOORAY! I MADE THREE YEN MAMA!!
BANZAI!

♪ HIP HIP HOORAH H P H.P HOORAH ♪

GOSH, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE SO HAPPY ABOUT THIS MONEY, THOUGH.
THIS STANDS FOR ALL THE SUFFERING MR SEIJI'S GOING THROUGH

BUT DON'T WORRY, MR SEIJI I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET WELL!!

UH, OH



WH WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GET OUT OF MY WAY!

WHA-?!

WH WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!

WH WHAT'S GOING ON?!

R R R

WH WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR ?!
WE KNOW YOU'RE ONE OF THE SNEAK THIEF'S GANG!!

SNEAK THIEF?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STOLE MY FAMILY'S CHICKENS!

NO! I DIDN'T!

AND YOU STOLE RICE MISO POTATOES AND SALT FROM MY FAMILY!
I DID NOT!

DON'T LIE TO US! ABOUT TEN KID THIEVES HAVE BEEN BOTHERING OUR HOUSES, AND ONE OF THEM'S LOOSE IN THIS AREA!

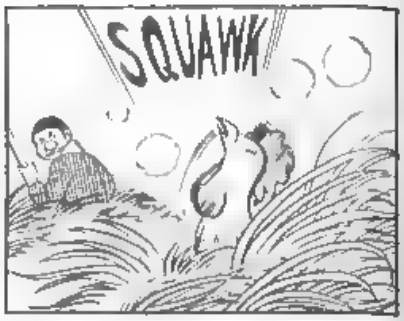
WE KNOW YOU'RE ONE OF THEM! CONFESS!
WHAT PROOF HAVE YOU GOT!?

THAT MONEY!
YOU'RE CRAZY! I EARNED THIS BY TAKING CARE OF MR SEIJI AT THE YOSHIDA'S!

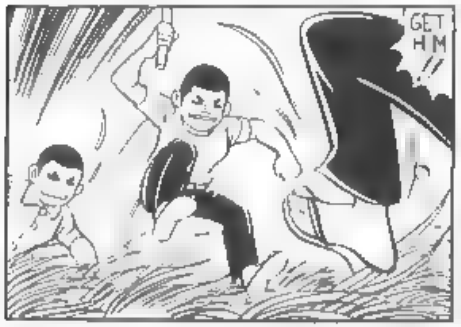
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!
LIAR! I KNOW YOU STOLE THAT FROM MY FAMILY!!
COME ALONG NOW
IF YOU WON'T CONFESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO THE POLICE!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME! I'M NOT A THIEF!!
MISTER YOSHIDA HELP!
THESE GUYS ARE TRYING TO SAY THAT STOLE THIS THREE YEN.
THEY ARE, EH?!
YOU CHILDREN MUST BE MISTAKEN! THE MONEY YOUNG GEN HAS WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY ME.
WHA-?! REALLY?!
HAH!! SEE!! I'M NOT A THIEF, UNDERSTAND?!

YOU IDIOTS! MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING BEFORE YOU ACCUSE ANYONE AGAIN!
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME. GEN PEOPLE N. EBA DON'T TRUST STRANGERS
Y YES SIR
BOY I'D LIKE TO TEACH THOSE GUYS A LESSON!!
HEY! THERE HE IS! THE THIEF!
OVER THERE!!
GET HIM!!
WHOOSH

WHERE'S THE RAT HIDING?!
ALL RIGHT THIEF! WE'VE GOT YOU NOW!!


SQUAWK

THE FOOL! IMAGINE TRYING TO HIDE WITH A STOLEN CHICKEN!!
THERE HE IS!!


GET HIM!!

BAM
WHAP
TAKE THIS!!

TICD
CIOIP
BASH
BAM
BAM

GOT'IM!!

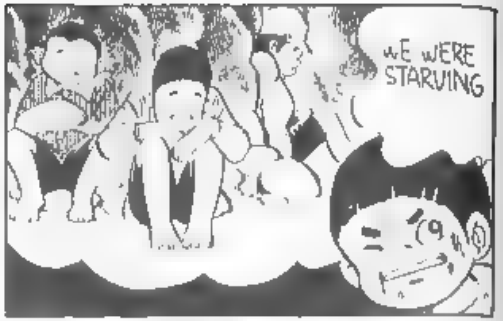
H HE_P-

NO!!

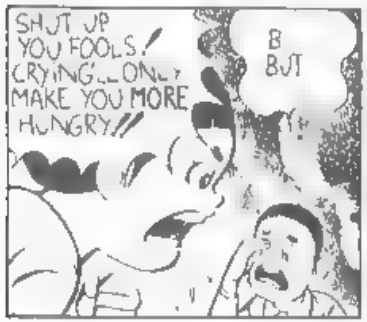
TAKE THIS FOR STEALING OUR CHICKENS!
HERE'S ONE FOR THE RICE YOU STOLE!

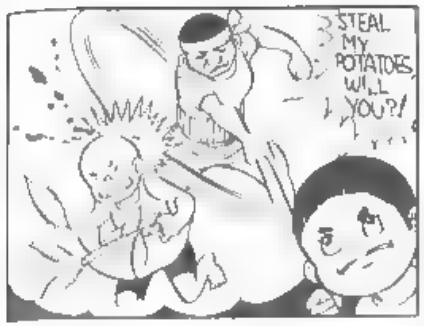
NOW WE'LL TAKE YOU TO THE POLICE!!

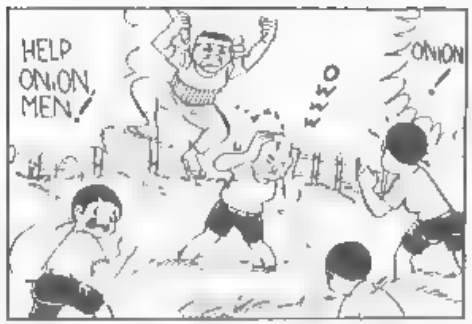
:GROAN
RYUTA!! SO YOU'RE THE ONE!?



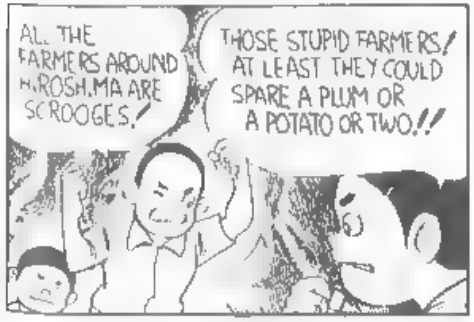
FOOD BRIGADE COMMANDER! I'M STARVING! DO SOMETHING!
YEAH WE CAN'T LIVE ON JUST STRAWBERRIES AND FROGS
YEAH WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? NO ONE COMES AND DISTRIBUTES RICE ANYMORE!
WANNA EAT RICE







* PICKLED PLUMS ARE KNOWN IN JAPAN FOR THEIR MEDICINAL VALUE.



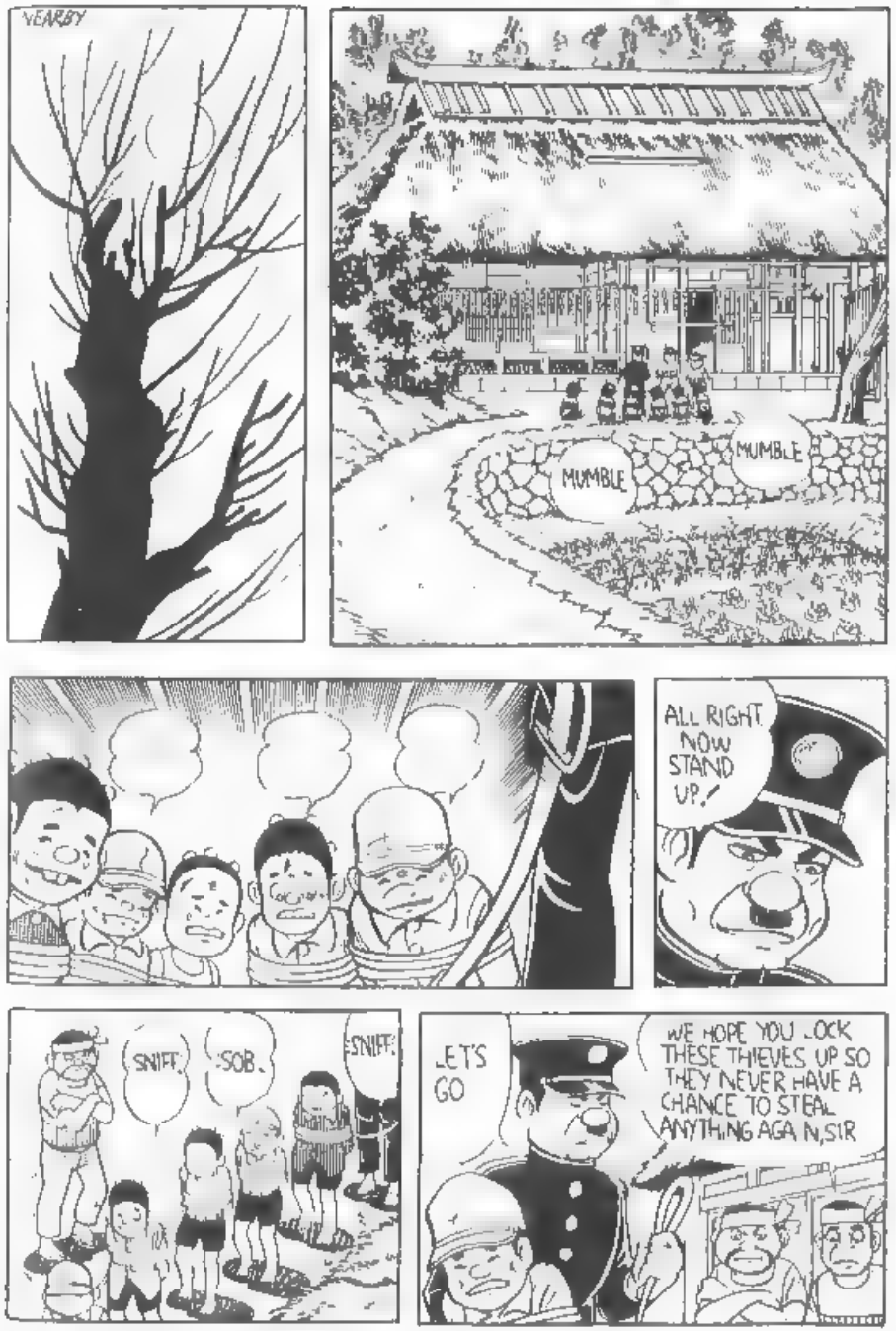
ALL RIGHT!!
IF WE'RE GOING TO DIE ANYWAY WE OUGHT TO DO TON FULL STOMACHS!
SO SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU'RE LUCKY! AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT A MOTHER!
COME ON NOW WE'RE GOING TO THE POLICE!!
NO! NO! I DON'T WANNA GO TO THE POLICE!!
WHA-?!
W. WAIT! LET RYUTA GO!
LISTEN! HE DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM! THE BOMB MADE HIM AN ORPHAN AND HE HAD TO STEAL!
LET HIM GO!
P PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY FOR HIM AND LET HIM GO!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT NOW?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

LISTEN! YOU'D STEAL TOO IF YOU WERE ALONE LIKE RYUTA!
STOP BULLYING HIM!!
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN FORGIVE HIM?!
HAH! WHY SHOULD WE?!
ENOUGH OUT OF YOU!!
ALL RIGHT. HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN- I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT RYUTA DID
WHAT?!
I'LL GIVE YOU BACK WHAT HE STOLE
AND I'LL GIVE YOU THREE YEN! HOW ABOUT IT?!
HEY! YOU HEAR THAT?
IF EVERYTHING'S RETURNED WE CAN POCKET THE THREE YEN! WHATTAYA SAY?!
HM NOT BAD
ALL RIGHT WE'LL LET HIM GO NOW HAND OVER THE MONEY
GEN WE'VE GOT TO HAVE SOME MONEY

GOSH I DID PLAN TO GIVE THIS ALL TO MAMA
I HATE TO DO THIS BUT THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, MAMA BUT THINK OF IT AS THOUGH I WAS HELPING SHINJI
HURRY UP AND HAND IT OVER!!
HERE, TAKE IT AND LEAVE!
NOW JUST LEAVE US ALONE!!
JUST REMEMBER IF WE CATCH HIM STEALING AGAIN WE WON'T LET HIM OFF SO EASY
HEH, HEH NOT BAD
HAH HAH HAH! WE MADE THREE YEN!!
WHAT'D YOU HELP ME FOR?!
BECAUSE YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY DEAD BROTHER SHINJI, AND I COULDN'T LET THEM TAKE YOU TO THE POLICE!

THINK OF YOU AS MY LITTLE BROTHER, AND I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP YOU!
I KNOW LIFE'S HARD FOR YOU TOO, RYUTA, BUT YOU MUSN'T GIVE UP!
WAAAH
SOBBING
NOW WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?! IT'LL ONLY MAKE YOU MORE HUNGRY!
I'M CRYING BECAUSE I'M HAPPY, GEN!
WH WHAT DID YOU AY?!
Y YOU MAKE ME FEEL KE I HAVE A BROTHER
HEY BIG BROTHER!
WELL, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

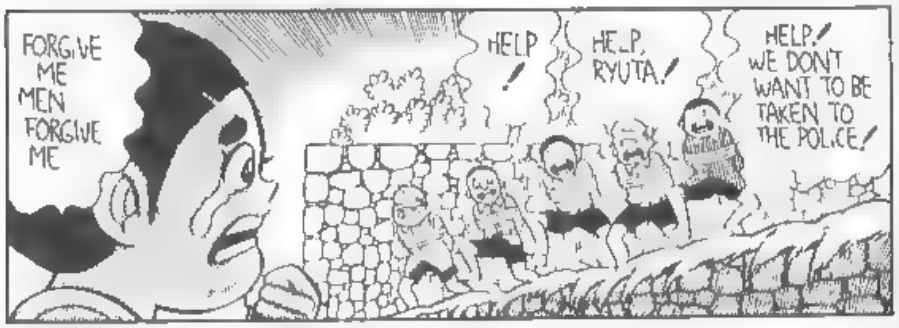
SAY "BROTHER" ONE MORE TIME
SNIFF... BROTHER
ONE MORE TIME!
BROTHER
GOSH IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE SHINJI'S ACTUALLY TALKING TO ME!
DOES IT MAKE YOU THAT HAPPY?!
JUST KEEP ON CALLING ME BROTHER, OKAY RYUTA?
WELL IF THAT'S ALL, YOU'RE EASY TO PLEASE
HEH, HEH.
OH, I KNOW A FOOL NAMED GEN, CALL HIM BROTHER HE'S HAPPY THEN!
FATHER MOTHER, SISTER, BROTHER EVERYONE SHOULD LOVE ONE ANOTHER
BONK
AS YOUR BROTHER I'LL TEACH YOU MANNERS TOO!
HEH, HEH.
OOOPS


YEARBY
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
ALL RIGHT, NOW STAND UP!
SNIFF.
SOB.
SNIFF.
LET'S GO
WE HOPE YOU LOCK THESE THIEVES UP SO THEY NEVER HAVE A CHANCE TO STEAL ANYTHING AGAIN, SIR

GET ALONG THERE!
OH NO! ALL MY MEN HAVE BEEN CAUGHT!
WHY?! THEY WERE SUCH GOOD FRENDS.!
I CAN'T STAND IT! I'VE GOT TO GO WITH THEM!
YOU'RE CRAZY, RYUTA! FORGET IT!
B BUT IF I'M THE ONLY ONE FREE I'LL BE ALL ALONE
THE MOMENT YOU WENT OUT THERE YOU'D BE CAUGHT, TOO!
SO ?!
I'M STILL YOUR FRIEND RYUTA WHY DON'T YOU COME LIVE WITH ME?
R REALLY?! D DO YOU THINK I COULD LIVE WITH YOU?!
I'LL ASK MY MOTHER IF IT'S ALL RIGHT
D DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE ?! YOU'RE NOT JOKING, ARE YOU?
LEAVE IT UP TO ME RYUTA!

NO. NO CARROT ACORN AKIO CRICKET SHINPE, THEY'RE ALL BEING TAKEN AWAY
HAH HAH! LOOK AT THE THIEVES
NO !!
I'VE GOTTA SAY GOOD BYE!
COMMANDER
LOOK! IT'S RYUTA!
HEY YOU GUYS! IT'S ME, RYUTA! DON'T GIVE UP HOPE! I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!!

COMMANDER HELP!!
RYUTA! HELP US!
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE MEN!


FORGIVE ME MEN FORGIVE ME
HELP!
HE_P, RYUTA!
HELP! WE DON'T WANT TO BE TAKEN TO THE POLICE!

:SOB: GOOD GOODBYE!
WHAT'S THAT YOUNG FELLOW DOING THERE?
SOB
SOB
SNIFF
SOB
SOB

ENOUGH OF THIS RACKET!!
WAH
WAH
SOB

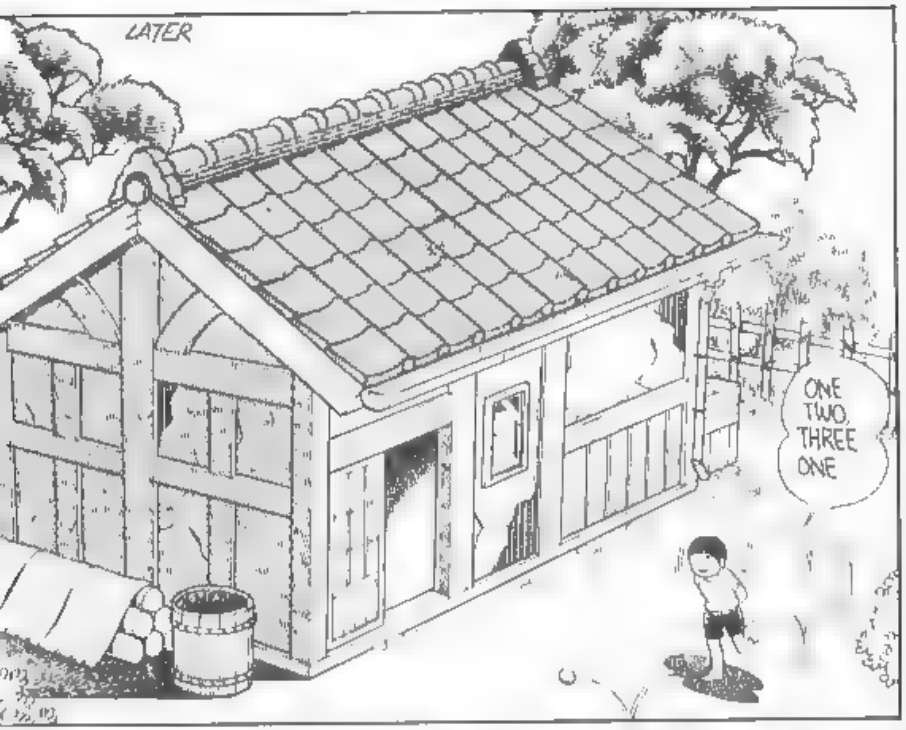
SOB
SNIFF
GOOD 'BYE!
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE! YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

:SOB:
COME ON, RYUTA! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO CHEER THEM UP!

LET'S SING!

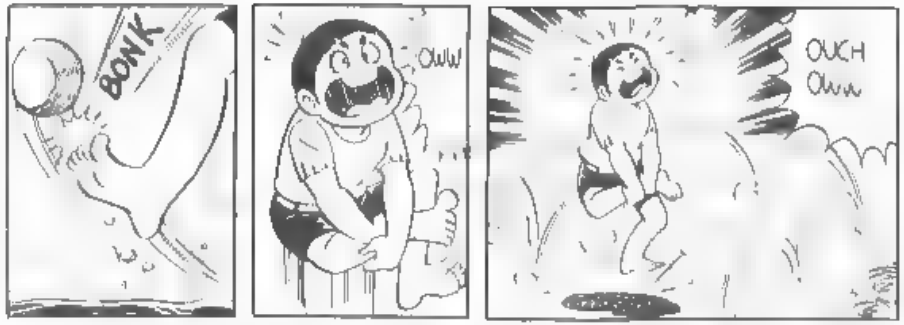
FAREWELL, FAREWELL, WE'LL SOON MEET AGAIN FAREWELL, FAREWELL WE'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIENDS!
THROUGH THICK AND THIN WHAT FUN THERE'S BEEN WE'LL SEE YOU SOON, WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
SOB
SNIFF
SOB
SOB

BLAST IT! IF IT WASN'T FOR THE WAR OR THE BOMB THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN FORCED TO STEAL!!
THEY'RE GOOD KIDS! THEY'RE NOT BAD!


LATER
ONE TWO, THREE ONE

YAWN

STILL AT IT
I WONDER IF THEY'LL REALLY LET ME LIVE WITH THEM?!
IF THEY SAY "NO" WHERE'LL I GO?!
WHAT'LL I DO?!
BONK


BONK
OWW
OUCH OWW

THAT HURT!
WHAT A DUMB THING TO DO
SURE IS TAKING A LONG TIME, THOUGH

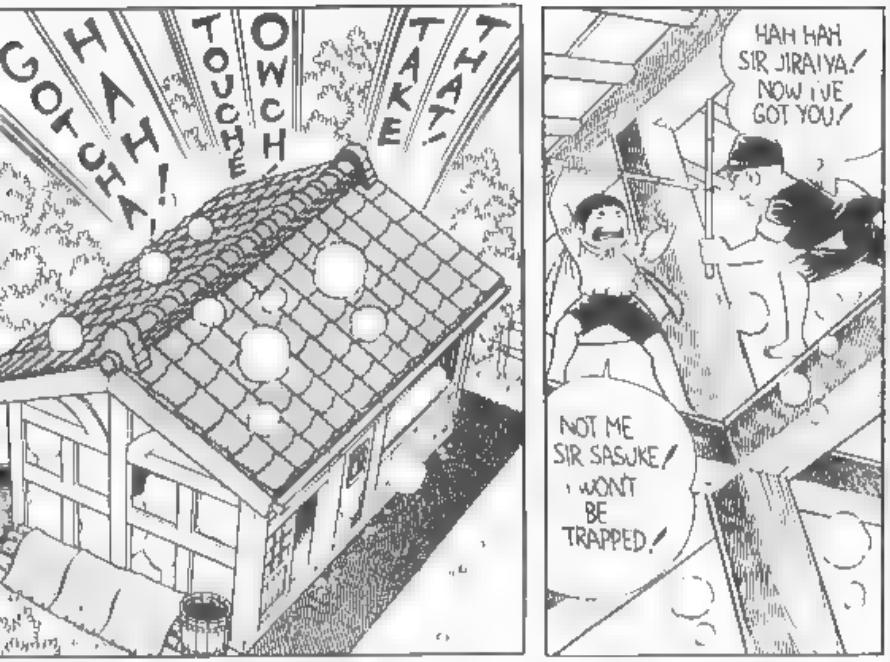
HE'LL BE NO PROBLEM, MAMA
LET HIM STAY PLEASE
I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID, GEN
BUT WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT OURSELVES
WHAT'LL WE DO WITH ANOTHER MOUTH?!

DON'T WORRY, MAMA. I CAN EARN THREE YEN A DAY BY TAKING CARE OF MISTER SEIJI AT THE YOSHIDAS
PLEASE LET RYUTA STAY IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT I PROMISE!
SSSSS
WHAT A HARD CHOICE
YAWN
BUT THE MORE I LOOK AT HIM THE MORE HE DOES LOOK LIKE MY POOR LITTLE SHINJI
MAMA CAN I HAVE THE BONES WHEN YOU FINISH? I'M SO HUNGRY I JUST LIKE TO CHEW ON THEM!
P POOR LITTLE SHINJI 'M SORRY T MES ARE SO HARD FOR JS

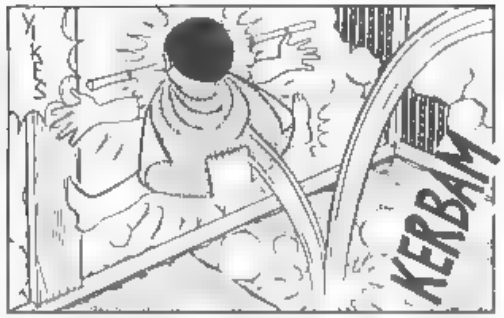
MAMA! HELP! I'M BURNING
GASP
POIK
H HERE RYUTA EAT THIS
R REALLY?! C CAN I?
CERTAINLY AND DON'T JUST STAND THERE COME ON IN
C CAN I REALLY ?!
THINK OF THIS AS YOUR OWN HOME FROM TODAY ON.
GEE THANKS!!
I WILL THINK OF HIM AS IF HE WERE POOR LITTLE SHINJI, GIVEN BACK TO US AND PERHAPS THIS WAY, CAN MAKE UP FOR ALL THE SUFFERING YOUR BROTHER HAD TO GO THROUGH
TH THANK YOU, MAMA

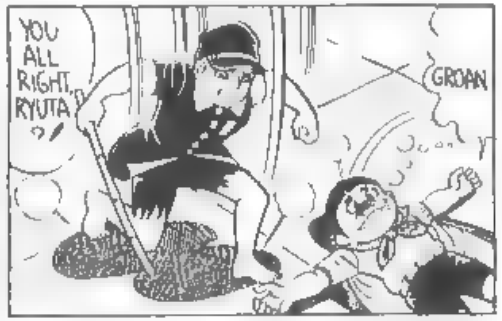
DID YOU HEAR THAT, RYUTA? YOU CAN STAY!! HAH HAH!
I, I PROMISE TO BE GOOD. MAMA WON'T DO ANYTHING BAD
RELAX, RYUTA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAND ON CEREMONY!
Y YES MAAM
I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A HARD TIME, TOO WE'VE ALL GOT TO HELP EACH OTHER
WHAT ARE YOU SNIFFLING ABOUT NOW?! HURRY UP AND EAT YOUR SWEET POTATO BEFORE IT GETS COLD!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE YOU AS THANKS BUT I CAN MASSAGE YOUR SHOULDERS
I USED TO DO THIS FOR MY FATHER ALL THE TIME
WH. WHAT'S THE MATTER RYUTA?!

D. DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL B BETTER?
WHY THANK YOU, RYUTA BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD TO THANK US
B BUT
S- SNIFF.
CHILDREN SHOULD JUST BE THEMSELVES I WANT YOU TO JUST FEEL AT HOME UNDERSTAND?
WAAH
THANK YOU ANYWAY!!
SOB
WAAH
WAAH
WAAH



* NINJITSU THE ART OF INVISIBILITY IN OLD JAPAN





ARENT YOU LUCKY, TOMOKO NOW YOU HAVE TWO BROTHERS.
HMPH THOUGHT T WAS NO SY
LOOK, GRANDMA THEY'VE GOT A STRANGER W TH THEM!
YE YES ?!
KIMIE
WHAT'S THAT BOY DOING HERE?! CERTAINLY YOU DON'T INTEND TO LET HIM STAY, DO YOU ?!
WHY, ER
ACTUALLY, I PLANNED TO KEEP HIM AS ONE OF MY OWN
WHAT ?!

MY DEAR KIMIE I MAY BE LENDING YOU THIS HOUSE BUT I DID NOT SAY YOU COULD DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH IT
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING BRINGING SOME DIRTY URCHIN OFF THE STREETS HERE?!
GET RID OF HIM RIGHT AWAY OR THE WHOLE PLACE WILL BE CRAWLING WITH FLEAS AND LICE!
B. BUT HE HAS NOWHERE TO GO AND IF WE DON'T TAKE THE CHILD IN WHAT WILL BECOME OF HIM?! PLEASE LET HIM STAY
NO MATTER HOW HARD TIMES ARE, WE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE COMPASSION PLEASE LET HIM STAY
NEVER !
SINCE WHEN DOES SOMEONE WHO CAN'T EVEN FEED HERSELF HAVE THE RIGHT TO TALK THAT WAY ?!
AND IF YOU INSIST WE'LL HAVE YOU START BY PAYING RENT FOR THIS PLACE!
WELL ?! HOW ABOUT IT ?! LET'S SEE THIS MONTH'S RENT !!

P PLEASE JUST WAIT A LITTLE LONGER I PROMISE I'LL PAY
HAND IT OVER NOW!
HMPH! IMAGINE NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE RENT BUT TAKING URCHINS IN OFF THE STREET! TO EVEN THINK OF IT!!
AND I WON'T ALLOW IT! MAKE CERTAIN THAT HE LEAVES RIGHT AWAY!!
WHY WHY THAT OLD WITCH!!
KUMIE! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! HURRY UP AND ORDER HIM TO LEAVE!
OWW
SLAP
HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT!?
WELL ?!
NN NO!

YOU OLD WITCH! HOW DARE YOU HIT MY MOTHER!!
NO ONE HITS MY MOTHER !!
SILENCE, CHILD! WHERE ARE YOUR MANNERS?!
I'LL SHOW YOU MY MANNERS
IF YOU DON'T STOP BOTHERING MY MOTHER I'LL KILL YOU!!
GASP !
WHA ?!
GASP !
GET OUT OF HERE!!
GEN.! STOP!
I'LL FIX YOU!!
EEK
HELP

LET ME GO, MAMA!!
GEN, STOP! WE JUST HAVE TO PUT UP WITH HER FOR NOW!
YOU OLD WITCH! HAG! I HOPE YOU DROP DEAD!!
YOU'LL GET YOUR PRECIOUS RENT TOMORROW!!
I'LL NEVER LET YOU KICK RYUTA OUT OF OUR HOME! UNDERSTAND?!
WHAT A FRIGHT!! BUT I'LL SHOW THAT AWFUL CHILD!!
HUFF PUFF
GEN WHAT'S DONE IS DONE
I JUST COULDN'T STAND HER, MOTHER
?!
WHA ?!

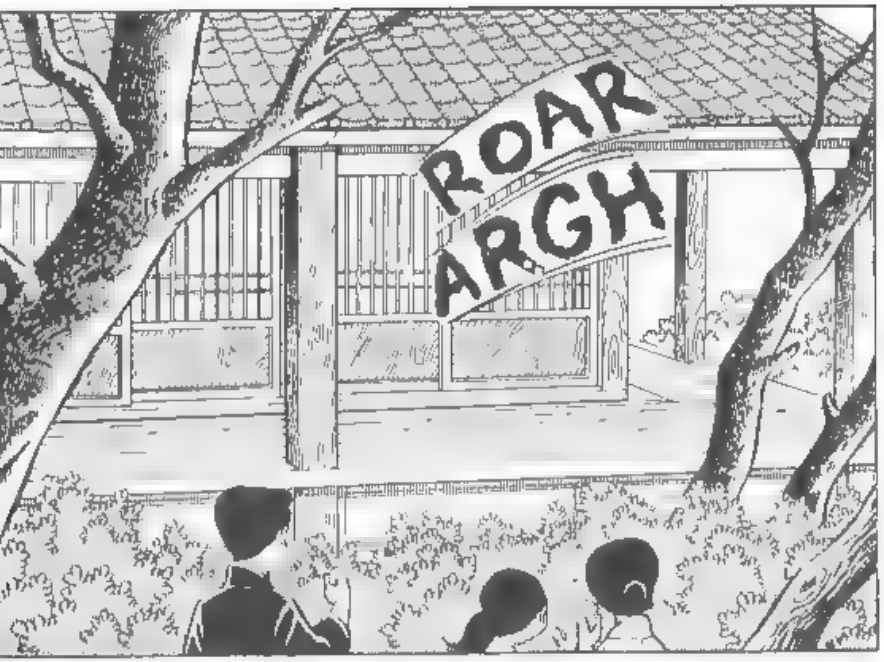
RYUTA, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING KNEELING LIKE THAT?!
MRS NAKAOKA
GEN, I'M SORRY
ALL THIS TROUBLE IS BECAUSE OF ME
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
HEY YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY!
WHY, RYUTA! WHAT A SILLY THING TO SAY!!
G GEN
IF THAT OLD HAG COMES AROUND AGAIN TO COMPLAIN WE'LL JUST CRAM SOME BAMBOO DOWN HER THROAT AND PLANT A DAISY IN HER HAIR!

G GEN DO DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?! CAN I REALLY STAY?!
OF COURSE! NOW STOP YOUR SNIFFLING!
WAAH
:SOB: MRS NAKAOKA AND GEN YOU'VE MADE ME SO HAPPY
HOURS LATER
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZ GOSH AM I LUCKY ZZZ
ZZZ YAWN I WON'T LET THEM KICK YOU OUT RYUTA! ZZZ
SNIFF SOB
*NOTE IN PREWAR JAPAN ANCESTOR WORSHIP WAS A STRONGER PRACTICE THAN IT IS TODAY, AND INSTEAD OF THE USUAL FAMILY ALTAR MRS. NAKAOKA HAS BEEN FORCED BY HER CIRCUMSTANCES TO KEEP THE BONES OF HER DEAD HUSBAND AND CHILDREN UNTIL THEY CAN BE PROPERLY CREMATED AND BURIED

SOMEHOW I HAVE TO RAISE THESE CHILDREN PROPERLY BUT WHAT WILL BECOME OF US.. WONDER?
EVERYTHING IS SO UNCERTAIN
IF ONLY MY HUSBAND WERE STILL ALIVE
OH, HOW WISH YOU COULD HELP ME, DEAR
MAY YOUR SOUL PROTECT US
:SOB:
BAM BAM BAM
WHA-?
IS THIS THE HOME OF GEN NAKAOKA ?!
WHO IS IT ?!

BAM
BAM
BAM
OPEN UP, PLEASE
GEN! SOMEONE HAS COME HERE FOR YOU!
ZZZ TIME FOR FOOD?! ZZZZ
YAWN WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT
YAWN GOSH, WONDER WHO IT COULD BE THIS EARLY ?!
RATTLE
?!!
PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO COME AT ONCE!
THE YOSHIDA K.D WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
S SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH UNCLE SEIJI!!
WHAT!
W WHAT HAPPENED ?!
WE DON'T KNOW BUT SOMETHING AWFUL! HE'S MAKING AWFUL NOISES!!

HE HE'S NOT DYING, IS HE?!
WE WE DON'T KNOW
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?!
H HE SOUNDS SO AWFUL WE CAN'T GO INSIDE HIS ROOM
SO WE WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MATTER IS!
THAT'S STUPID! HE'S YOUR OWN UNCLE, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT IF HE'S IN PAIN AND DYING?! HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?! AT LEAST YOU COULD CHECK ON HIM!!
HMPH! I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY!!
MR SEIJI, YOU'D BETTER NOT DIE ON ME NOW! HANG IN THERE!!
MAMA! I'M GOING TO MR SEIJI'S PLACE!
ME, TOO!

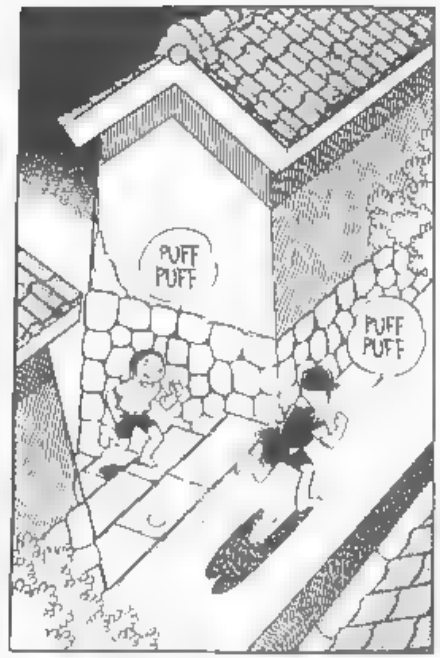

ROAR
ARGH

ROAR
SCREECH
D D DEAR, DO YOU THINK SE..'S GONE MAD?/ LISTEN TO HIM

PLEASE SEE WHAT'S WRONG DEAR/
ME?/ WHY DON'T YOU/?

GOAN
N NO THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE MIGHT DO

HOLD ON, MR SEIJI WE'RE COMING/


PUFF PUFF
PUFF PUFF

PUFF PANT
WELL, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE/ SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH SEIJI, GEN/

!!
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?/ IF YOU WANT THREE YEN YOU SHOULD GET HERE FASTER!!

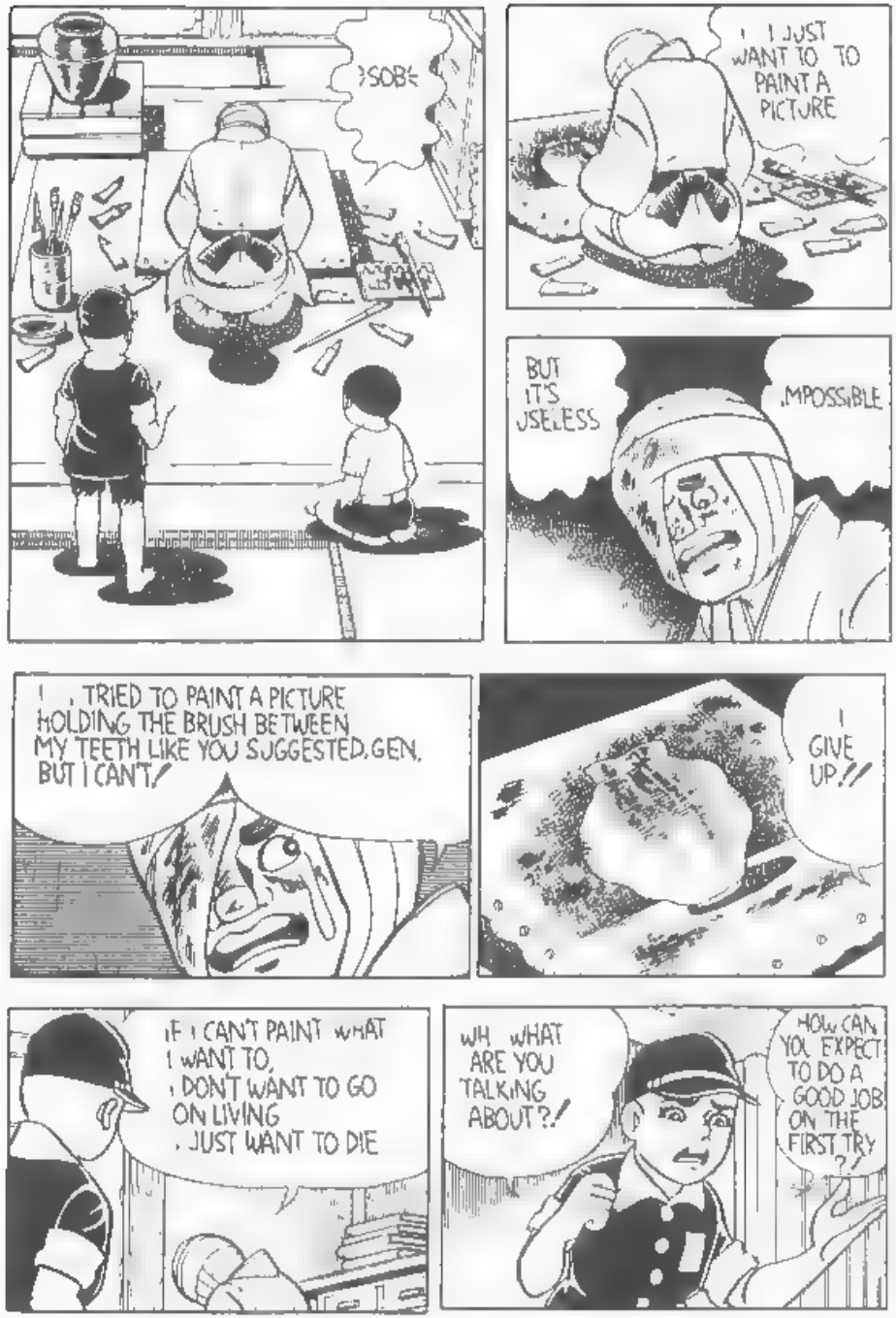
WHAT A WITCH/ SHE HATES MR SEIJI
AND ACTS LIKE SOME KIND OF MILLIONAIRE THE WAY SHE TREATS ME/

SHE'S GOT SO MUCH TIME ON HER HANDS YOU'D AT LEAST THINK SHE COULD CHECK ON MR SEIJI
WHAT A HEART OF STONE/ BURNING IN HELL WOULD BE TOO GOOD FOR HER/

ARGH
ROAR
GAGH
GROAN
I WONDER WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?!
GROAN
I'M COMING IN AL RIGHT MR SEIJI?!
RATTLE
GROAN
SOB

WH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GROAN
HEH HEH LOOK AT THAT HE'S PAINTING WITH HIS MOUTH!
THIS LOOKS LIKE FUN!!
WHEW! WHAT A RELIEF! WAS AFRAID HE WAS DYING!!
GROAN
SPLASH

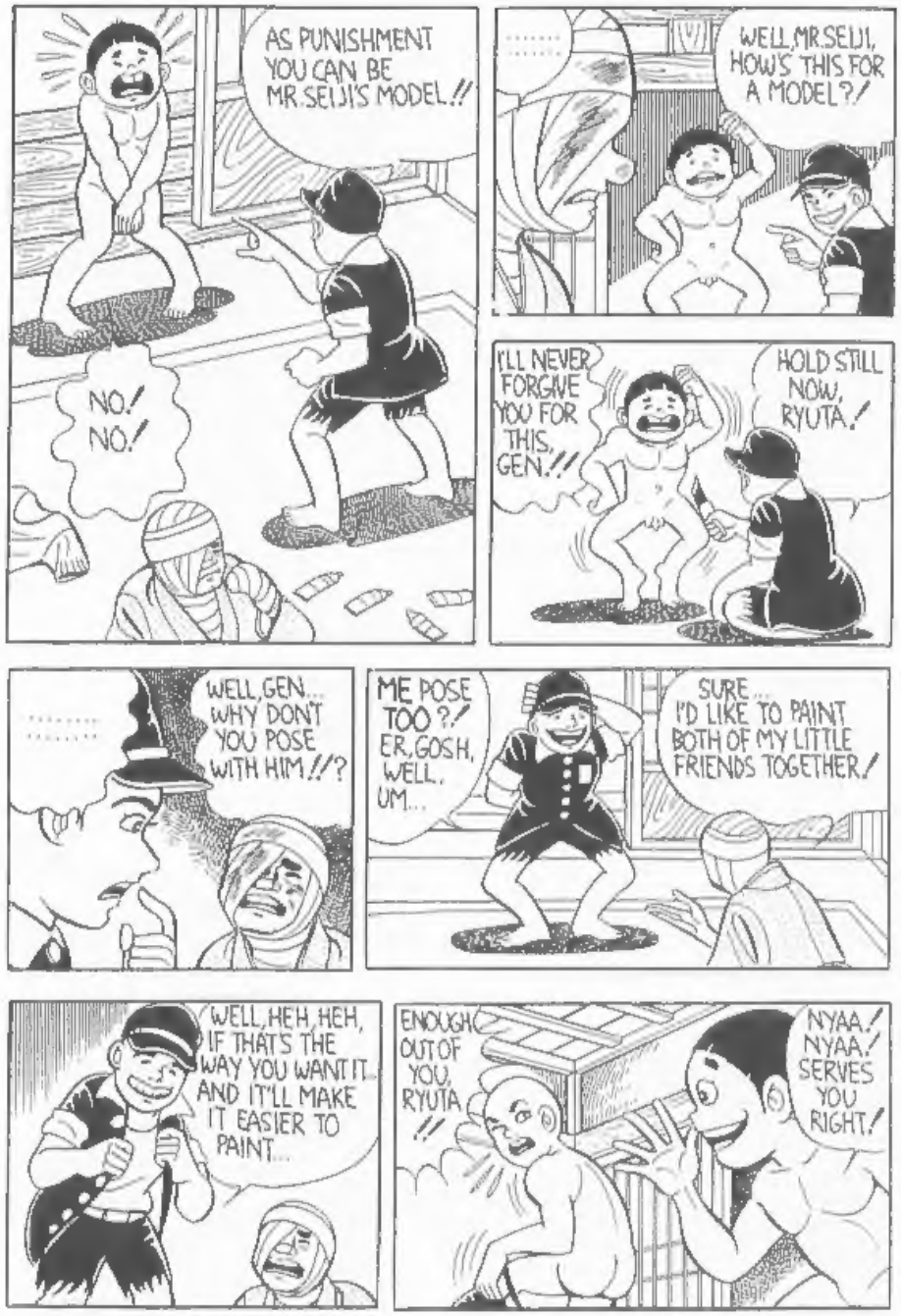
GROAN
HA HA HA
ACK!
I'LL SHOW YOU
CHOMP
ARGH
BAM
GROAN
HAH HAH HAH
ER SORRY GEN
RYUTA!!


SOB
I JUST WANT TO TO PAINT A PICTURE
BUT IT'S USELESS
IMPOSSIBLE
I TRIED TO PAINT A PICTURE HOLDING THE BRUSH BETWEEN MY TEETH LIKE YOU SUGGESTED, GEN. BUT I CAN'T!
I GIVE UP!!
IF I CAN'T PAINT WHAT I WANT TO, I DON'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING I JUST WANT TO DIE
WH WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO DO A GOOD JOB ON THE FIRST TRY??

DON'T BE SO IMPATIENT./ IF YOU PRACTICE I KNOW YOU'LL GET BETTER./
I'M IMPATIENT BECAUSE I WANT TO PAINT PICTURES WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE!/
LATELY I HAVE TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES EVERY NIGHT./
MAGGOTS DEVOUR MY ENTIRE BODY AND I DISAPPEAR.!!
REALLY?! WHAT DO YOU SEE?!
DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THAT.!!
I KNOW I'M GOING TO DIE SOON./
BUT BEFORE I DO I WANTED TO PAINT MY LAST WORK...
I WANTED TO PUT MY SOUL INTO SOMETHING AND THEN DIE!

...IF... IF ONLY THESE HANDS WOULD WORK./
...IF ONLY I COULD HOLD A BRUSH./
I... I CAN'T STAND IT...
HEAVENS./ THAT SEIJI MAKES SUCH A COMMOTION./ ...IMAGINE YELLING LIKE A MADMAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT BECAUSE HE WANTS TO PAINT A PICTURE...
WHY DOESN'T HE JUST HURRY UP AND DIE AND DO ALL OF US A FAVOR./
MOTHER./ HE MIGHT HEAR YOU./
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE DOES... COME ALONG NOW, AKIKO, BEFORE YOU CATCH THE BOMB DISEASE...
GOSH./ THEY SAY AWFUL THINGS DON'T THEY, GEN./
LISTEN, MR. SEIJI. YOU'VE GOT TO STAY ALIVE JUST TO TEACH THAT OLD WITCH A LESSON./ YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW!!

HERE! TAKE YOUR PAINT BRUSH...
...AND PAINT!
SOB
HAT'S THE AY!!
GRRR
BOZX
A HA HA
RYUTA! I TOLD YOU NOT TO LAUGH!!
BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! IT'S FUNNY!!
ELP! M SORRY! M SORRY!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO LAUGH AT SOMEONE'S SUFFERING!!
KEEP STILL!!
HELP! EEK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GEN?!


AS PUNISHMENT YOU CAN BE MR. SEIJI'S MODEL!!
NO! NO!
WELL, MR. SEIJI, HOW'S THIS FOR A MODEL?!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS, GEN!!
HOLD STILL NOW, RYUTA!
WELL, GEN... WHY DON'T YOU POSE WITH HIM!!?
ME POSE TOO?! ER, GOSH, WELL, UM...
SURE... I'D LIKE TO PAINT BOTH OF MY LITTLE FRIENDS TOGETHER!
WELL, HEH, HEH, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT. AND IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER TO PAINT...
ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, RYUTA!!
NYAA! NYAA! SERVES YOU RIGHT!

HEH,HEH... HOW'S THIS LOOK?!
GOOD! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
GRRR
I BET WE LOOK PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?!
HEH, HEH...
OLD YOUR POSE,RYUTA! YOU'VE GOT TO FOR MR.SEIJI'S SAKE!
UH,OH... I DON'T THINK I CAN MUCH LONGER..
GASP
PUFF
GASP
GROAN

SOME HOURS LATER...
HEE HEE...
NOT BAD...
IT'S THE SPITTING IMAGE OF US! ...AND YOU DID IT WITH ONLY YOUR MOUTH!
GOSH! I'D LIKE TO TRY TO PAINT MYSELF!!
HA HA HA! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH, GEN... YOU CAN'T DRAW!
WELL, DON'T LAUGH, THEN!! MY FATHER WAS A PAINTER AND I CAN PAINT TOO!!
IF YOU WANT ME TO TEACH YOU, I'D BE GLAD TO, GEN...
WOULD YOU, MR. SEIJI? WILL YOU TEACH ME HOW TO PAINT PICTURES AS GOOD AS YOU?!
S-SURE...
R...REALLY?! DO YOU PROMISE ?!

I-I PROMISE...
HOORAY! LET'S GO SKETCHING TOMORROW!!
.....
SEE, MR. SEIJI?! YOU CAN'T DIE NOW! YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH ME HOW TO PAINT!
YOU LITTLE...
YOU HEAR THAT, MR. SEIJI?!
...BESIDES, I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DIE, UNDERSTAND?!
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO GO HOME, NOW!
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO GO HOME NOW!
B... BYE...
OW!!
DON'T PARROT ME!!
GOSH! I CAN'T WAIT TILL TOMORROW!
I'M GOING TO LEARN HOW TO PAINT!!
GEN... HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU?! EVERY TIME WE MEET YOU GIVE ME STRENGTH...
I WILL GO ON LIVING! I WON'T DIE LIKE THIS!
TO BE CONTINUED!!